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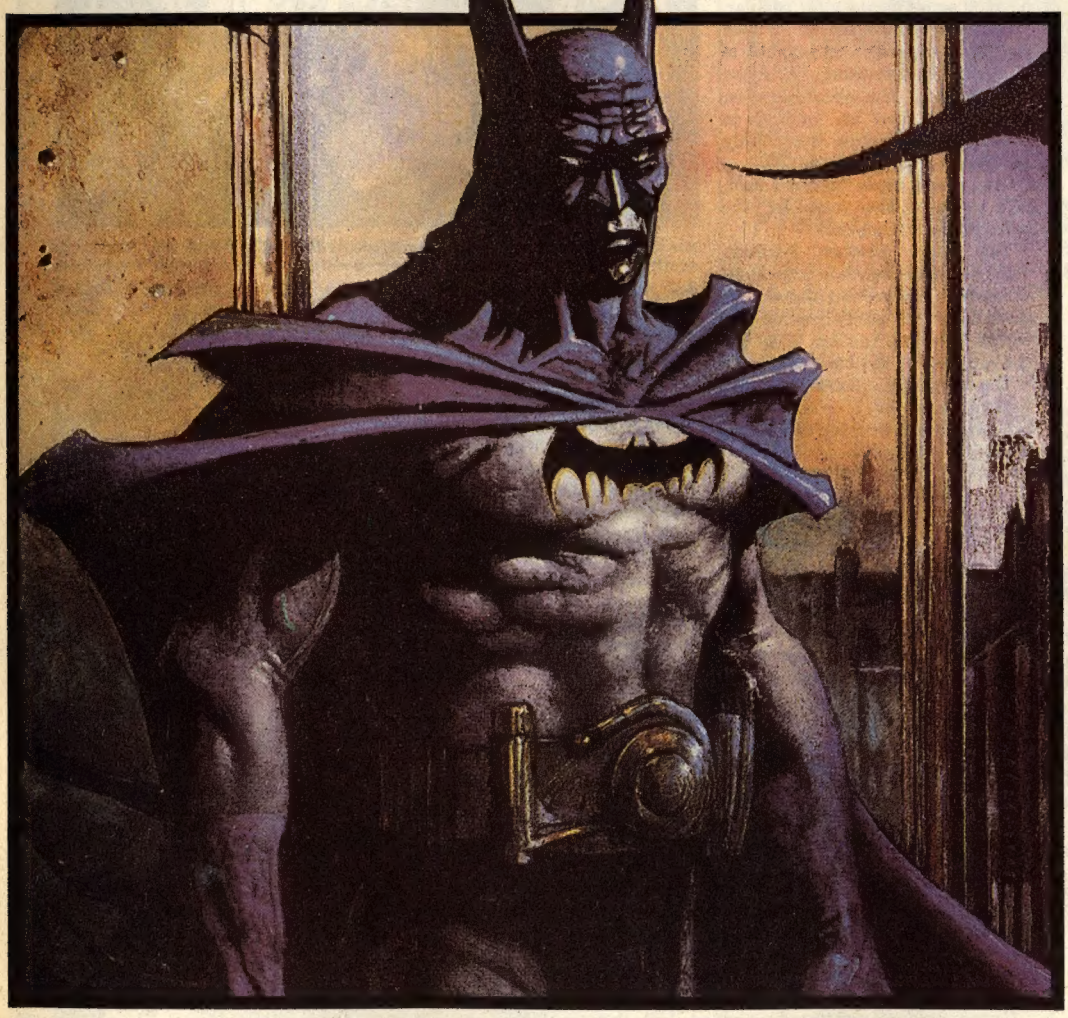
Comics INTERNATIONAL

Issue 20 May 1992 edition | The Comics Industry Monthly | 96 pages 50p / $1.50

DC's clawback bid: 91 new titles planned



This month DC Comics launches the ***Run, Riddler, Run*** *mini and the continuing* ***Shadow of the Bat*** *title. Scheduled for June are* ***Batman Returns*** *the movie adaptation,* ***Penguin Triumphant*** *and* ***Catwoman Defiant.*** *Beyond these and the four regular titles, nine new Bat-books are planned;* ***Batman Sword of Azrael*** *(4 issues, 7/92),* ***Batman: Night Cries*** *(8/92),* ***Robin III*** *(6 issues, 8/92), Batman & Green Arrow in* ***The Poison Tomorrow*** *(9/92),* ***Batman: The Art of Neal Adams*** *(10/92),* ***Two Face Strikes Twice*** *(2 issues, 11/92),* ***Birth of the Demon*** *(12/92),* ***Batman & Houdini*** *(early 1993) and* ***Dark Joker - The Wild*** *(unscheduled). More details and visuals inside.*

ATTEMPTING to recapture its former status as market leader, DC Comics is to launch a massive line of new titles within the year.

Rival publisher Marvel has continually increased its total comics market share, peaking above 60%, more than double that of rival DC at under 25%.

Outside of a wide range of titles based on Batman, DC's most popular hero (see left), the company is using a scattergun approach in its super-hero dominated expansion.

Ex-Justice League characters **Captain Atom, Captain Marvel, Martian Manhunter,**

Marvel counters with 16 new X-Men titles .. 3

and **Spectre** all get their own books, and old character revivals also include **Zatanna, Congorilla, Vigilante, Deadman, Kamandi, The Geek, Thunderbolt, The Atom** and **Space Ranger.**

Spin-offs include four new **Titans** titles, three from **The Legion of Super-Heroes** plus **Justice League Task Force, Metropolis: Special Crime Unit, Justice Society, Death** (from **Sandman**), **The Golden Age, The Outsiders** and a continuing **Guy Gardner** book.

Humour is covered through the revival of **Stanley & His Monster** while a 3-issue adaptation of **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** is also being prepared.

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NEWS america

Marvel plans to launch 16 new X-titles

WHILE DC Comics has recently unveiled its huge expansion plans with 91 new titles scheduled for the coming year featuring a wide range of characters, market leader Marvel has countered with its strongest sellers.

Marvel editor Terry Kavanagh is reported to be casting a wide net among creators to find the right teams to work on no less than 16 new mutant spin-off titles.

Mini-series are being planned for top characters including *Cable, Gambit, Forge & Storm* and possibly *Rogue*, among others.

If sales warrant continuation, Marvel is sure to follow with ongoing series for the most popular.

It is believed the reason for such a sudden expansion is because of Marvel's new ownership. With the new **Batman** film about to open, publishers expect an increase in popularity for comics, but mainly DC-owned Batman-related titles.

This would erode Marvel's lead, and decrease the value for the company's shareholders.

Yet, while another 8-million selling mutant launch is considered unlikely in the current climate, 16 titles each selling half a million would provide a similar boost for the company on the stock market.

The current intention is to replace next year's summer bi-weekly issues of regular titles with the new range of mutant mini-series.

Forthcoming ***X-Men*** *poster art by Jim Lee and Scott Williams (ships July, $4.95)*

Marvel mutants: America's biggest seller

The popularity of Marvel's X-books is such that, were the range to be produced outside of Marvel, the combined sales would make the mutant line into America's third biggest grossing adventure comics company, behind Marvel and DC, but bigger than any of the independent publishers.

But the real problem may lie with the very popularity of the titles. It is arguably this high profile which has led to several recently leaving Marvel, hoping to take their fans with them to new publisher Image Comics.

This has left Marvel with the very real problem of filling their shoes. While writers and artists are more than happy to work on such popular titles, and receive handsome bonuses for their work, filling the void left by the sudden mass exodus with *capable* creators is a problem in itself. Finding *additional* writers and artists to fulfil the increased workload of extra titles could easily result in a drop in quality.

In turn this could lead to low sales and defeat the entire object of the expansion.

New creative line-up for mutant titles

The new art teams for the X-books have been announced as follows:

X-Men
12 onwards: Kubert & Thibert

X-Force
10 - 14: Pacella & Panosian
15 onwards: Capullo & Candelaro

X-Factor
79 - 83: Larry Stroman
84 - 85: Capullo
86 onwards: Joe Quesada

Uncanny X-Men
Up to 292: Whilce Portacio
293 (anniversary special): various including Byrne, Lee, Smith, Romita Jr and Portacio
294 - 299: Joe Quesada
300 onwards: John Romita Jr.

Wolverine
56 - 57: Marc Silvestri
58 - 60: Mark Robertson
61 - 63: Brandon Peterson
64 - 67: Mark Texiera
68 onwards: Bill Sienkiewicz

New readers: begin here

***Comics International** is a monthly industry trade newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items.*

Certain products mentioned are not available through regular newsstand outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. In our news section, these comics are noted (DS). Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialist shops in Britain is given in our Retail Index.

***Shipping dates** mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to newsstand on sale dates or titles.*

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these copies will be sold at a higher price than the UK price printed on their covers.

***American dollar prices** are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 70p = $1.*

*Beyond current export trial of the UK **Comics International**, an American edition is in preparation.*

Multi-version first issue for DC's new Team Titans

DC COMICS is utilizing a unique approach to launch its next major series, **Team Titans**.

Nightrider, pencils by Netzer; inks Blyberg.

As well as crossing over with existing titles **Deathstroke The Terminator** and **The New Titans** in the Marv Wolfman 9-part storyline *Total Chaos*, there will be five different first issues for **Team Titans**, all shipping July 28.

All five, priced $1.75 will feature the same back-up 21 page story (with art by Kevin Maguire and Will Blyberg) as the Team Titans take on the New Titans when the assassination attempt on Troia reaches its climactic moment, just as Donna Troy gives birth.

But the lead story (and Maguire covers) will be different in all five versions.

Each first story and cover will introduce a different member of the team in 18 page character origins, all written by Wolfman.

An original marketing move sure to profit the publisher, this does mean that once readers have bought one version of **Team Titans**, they will be paying $1.75 for only 18 new pages in each of the other four.

Mirage, pencils by Morrissette; inks Vey.

Killowat, pencils by Gammill; inks by Blyberg.

With none of the team members having an existing audience, retailers will be hard-pressed when ordering to determine if any characters may become more popular than others, so some may soon be scarce if the experiment proves successful.

*Inset below: **Terra**, pencils by Jiminez, inks Perez; and **Redwing**, pencils Hughes, inks Kesel.*

Prince: Alter Ego comic reissued

ORIGINALLY launched with little publicity and only one interior visual to judge the title by, **Prince: Alter Ego** was grossly under-ordered by retailers.

Now, accompanied by a visual of the Brian Bolland cover which will also be used on Prince's next album and CD sleeve, DC's Piranha imprint in America, and Titan Books in Britain, are producing a second edition.

Written by Dwayne McDuffie, the oneshot is illustrated by Denys (**The Question**) Cowan and Kent (**Meltdown**) Williams and should be on sale to coincide with Prince's New Power Generation Tour.

Kang to star in 4-issue Marvel annuals crossover

MARVEL's next crossover annual storyline features the return of time travelling villain Kang the Conquerer.

Citizen Kang begins in **Captain America Annual 11**, with Cap investigating the disappearance of the Vision (who went to the appropriately named Timely, Wisconsin to investigate a part in him which could not have been built in 1939). But Cap is thrown into Chronopolis, Kang's supercity, where each street is from a different time period.

Soon, the star-spangled avenger finds himself in a Cimmerian street fighting a horde of barbarians and encountering a younger version of a future Avenger, Gilgamesh.

In **Thor Annual 17**, the next installment has the Avengers chairperson, The Black Widow, send Thor to look for the missing Vision and Captain America. Through Chronopolis, Thor journeys to 10th century Norway but, surrounded by his worshippers, must face the wizardry of Prešter John.

In the third part of the story, in **Fantastic Four Annual 25**, Dr Druid and Ravonna enlist the aid of the Fantastic Four in their search.

Together they reach Chronopolis where they clash in battle with the investigating Avengers, Black Widow, Falcon, Sersi, Crystal, The Black Knight and Hercules.

Avengers Annual 21 concludes the story as the Fantastic Four and the Avengers unite to defeat the Seven Centurions -- warriors from different eras that Kang has gathered together.

The entire story is told by writers Mark Gruenwald and Roy Thomas, with artists yet to be determined.

The four titles, priced $2.25 each will ship in July.

IN BRIEF

Ghost Rider & Cable

FOR those who missed **Marvel Comics Presents 90-98**, Marvel is reprinting the entire Ghost Rider and Cable serial as a 64 page $3.95 title with card covers.

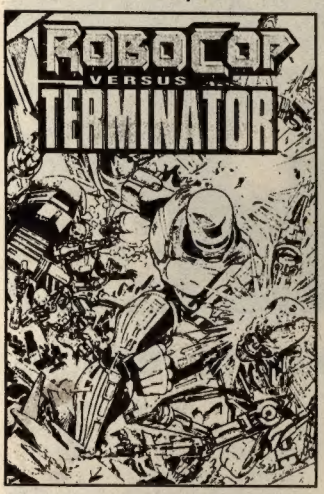
The Howard Mackie, Guang Yap and Bud LaRosa title ships July 21.

Rock on, Arnie

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger appears to be once more in line to play **Sergeant Rock** in the optioned movie based on DC's World War Two comic.

While the crowd-pulling star may look the part, the big concern is that his accent will make him sound more like one of the bad guys than the all-American hero.

RoboCop v Terminator stand-ups



GOING one better than the recent **Ghost Rider** pop-up, Dark Horse has added full colour, card stock stand-ups to all four issues of its **Robocop v Terminator** series.

These two nine inch stand up figures are reported to be easily cut out with foldable bases so that, as the company's marketing man David Weigel comments, "you can stage your own RoboCop versus The Terminator battles!".

In a move similar to its **Terminator Oneshot** pop-up inclusion, Dark Horse did not mention this as a sales promotion when soliciting from the trade, so the title may be in short supply at retail level.

RoboCop versus Terminator is a $2.50 title, with shipping dates from May through to August.

Margot in Heavy Metal

THE NEW Kevin Eastman-owned **Heavy Metal** magazine, to be published by his *Metal Mammoth* company, is to serialise the second part of the excellent *Margot in Badtown*.

The first part has been published in English by Tundra as a $14.95 hardback graphic novel, as part of an international co-publishing arrangement.

*It begins here: Marvel's major new campaign **Rise of the Midnight Sons** by Howard Mackie and the son and father art team of Andy & Joe Kubert kicks off in **Ghost Rider** 28, the June 9 shipping $2.50 special. As well as launching 4-new Ghost Rider "family" titles through the 6-part Midnight Sons storyline, this issue is a polybagged special featuring a fold-out poster and a gatefold centrespread (illustrated above).*

Aborted Touchmark projects acquired by DC Comics

PROJECTS commissioned for the Disney *Touchmark* imprint which was recently cancelled that have been taken up by DC include:

- **Enigma** (by Peter Milligan and Duncan Fegredo)
- **Mercy** (by JM DeMatteis and Paul Johnson)
- **Sebastian O** (by Grant Morrison and Steve Yeowell)
- **Shadows Fall** (by John Ney Rieber and John Van Fleet)

Commissioning editor Art Young, who returns to DC with the books, said "While Disney gave me the opportunity to create a fabulous line of new projects, DC's commitment to high-quality, sophisticated material gives me the freedom to continue producing the kinds of books I enjoy.".

Andrea Beam of Disney Comics commented on the switch, "Since we have decided to refocus our strategy, concentrating specifically on Disney collectors and the children's market, Touchmark simply was not a good fit.". courtesy of Diamond Dialogue

WARNER BROS is mounting three major ad campaigns for the release of **Batman Returns**, representing close to $50 million in media spend.

DC is not being slow to take advantage of the high-profile exposure for Batman and comics in general, with their biggest ever push on new titles (announced elsewhere this issue).

Mirage celebrate Turtles' 50th with statuette

MIRAGE PUBLISHING, home of those ninja turtles, is producing a limited edition Leonardo statuette.

Created by cover artist A. C. Foley, the bust is part of the company's celebration of the fiftieth **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** comic, and Mirage's eighth year.

Cast in bronze pigmented resin, the 5000 9" high statuettes will ship in August and retail at $75.

Also shipping in August from Mirage is a **Deluxe TMNT Book 1** facsimile softcover reprint (64 pages, $5.95) in sepia colour, with extra story roughs by Eastman and Laird, and an introduction by Harlan Ellison.

The regular **TMNT** title begins a 13 part story, *City at War*, with its 50th $2 48 page issue. Bonus features for the August shipping anniversary issue include pin-ups by McFarlane, Simonson and Larsen.

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IN BRIEF

RoboCop 3 adaptation

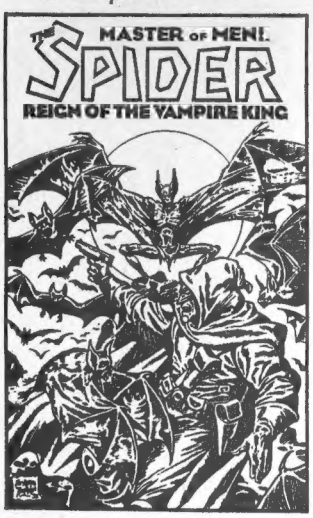
IN addition to its **RoboCop v Terminator** series, Dark Horse is beginning an adaptation of the new movie **RoboCop 3** on a fortnightly schedule with issue one shipping June 2.

Priced $2.50, the full colour 3-issue series is written by Steven Grant with art by **The Web**'s Hoang Nguyan and **Magnus**'s Art Nichols.

Spider-man card giveaways to retailers

Retailers will receive a special set of five Spider-Man cards for every 20 copies of **Amazing Spider-Man 365** they order. Spidey readers are advised to check with their comic shops now, as obviously only one in twenty of you will be able to get your hands on a set.

The Spider Returns



Eclipse Comics is releasing a second series of Tim Truman's **The Spider, Master of Men**, reviving the popular pulp hero in comics.

Reign of the Vampire King will be a 3-issue series, with the first prestige format 48 page issue (drawn by Enrique Alcatena) shipping in June, priced $4.95

Youngblood features Glow-in-Dark Cover

Possibly in an attempt to boost the disappointing sales on issue 2,

Image Comics' **Youngblood 3** features a special glow-in-the-dark ink on one of its two flip-covers.

Gun-toting team member Chapel, who wears white war paint in the shape of a skull painted on his face is the cover subject for the special treatment, with the white skull paint glowing in the dark.

Liefeld is reported as saying, "I wanted to give the fans something special with this issue".

Reports from the UK trade suggest a professional writer would have been a more welcomed addition to the title.

Love & Rockets

WITH publishers Fantagraphics promising the title is now on a more regular schedule, issue 39 will ship in June, priced $2.75.

The 32 page issue ends the title's first decade of publishing and also sees the end to two of its serials.

Jaime Hernandez's epic *Wig Wam Bam* concludes as does brother Gilbert's *Love & Rockets* storyline.

Poison River, the third serial, reaches its penultimate chapter.

Digitek launches

Marvel UK's *Digitek* serial from its recently launched fortnightly **Overkill** is the fifth series to be reprinted as an American edition, with additional new material to link it to the Marvel Universe.

Guest-starring Deathlok, **Digitek** is a 4-issue $1.95 series written by John Tomlinson and Andy Lanning with fully painted art by **Nightbreed**'s Dermot Power.

With Marvel having gone to second printing on the authors' previous hit, **Death's Head 2** issues one and two, the company expects demand to be high for **Digitek**, its first digitized super-hero.

***Lobo: Blazing Chain of Love** is a single issue self-contained 32 page new format title. Written by regulars Grant & Giffin, it introduces the artwork of Denys Cowan to the character. This time, Lobo is tracing a beautiful murderess, hiding in a harem the size of Wales. How will our hero work his way through these lovelies? With as much implied sex as DC will allow, and with Lobo endorsing the use of condoms, that's how! Priced $1.50, **Blazing Chain of Love** ships July 28.*

Justice Society star in new series

DESPITE THE disappointing reaction to the recent 8-issue mini-series set in the 1950s, DC is scheduling **Justice Society of America** as a continuing monthly.

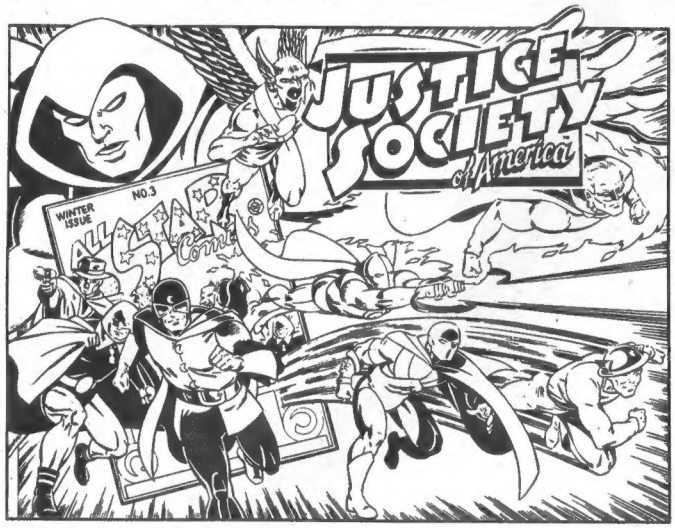
With issue one shipping July 7 ($1.25), the title reunites its mini-series team of creators Len Strazewski and Mike Parobeck. Co-creator of the cancelled **Infinity Inc**, Mike Machlan, handles inking on the series which follows from the team's reappearance in the May 26 shipping **Armageddon: Inferno 4**.

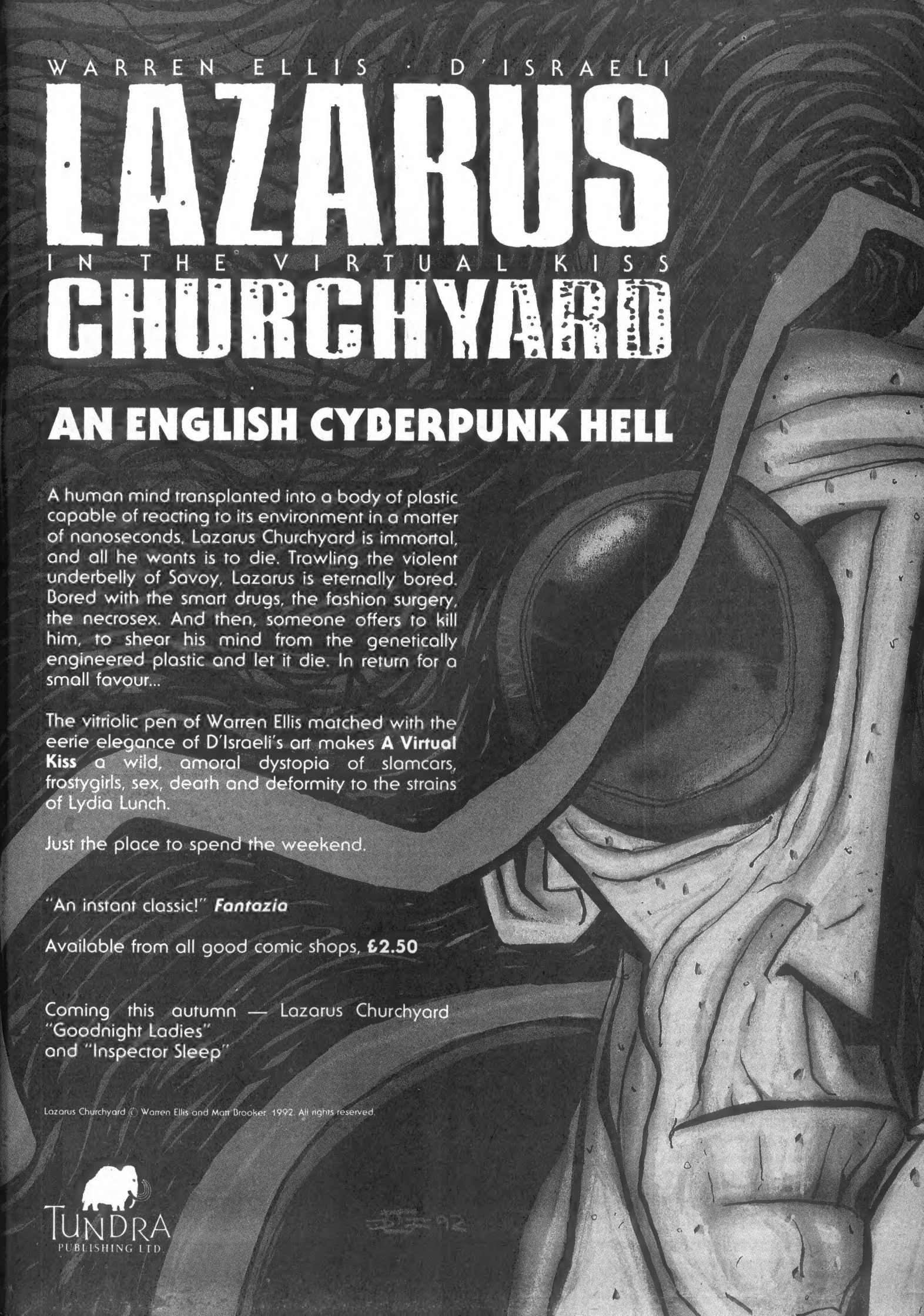
Editor Brian Augustyn explains, "These characters return from a virtual limbo to the current DC universe and find a very changed world. Things aren't as clear cut as they remember. It's not simply good vs. evil any more."

Already middle-aged when they were written out of continuity several years ago, they return to contemporary times much older than most DC heroes, and receive varying reactions from the characters they encounter.

Promising crossover stories which will appeal to long-time DC readers, editor Augustyn continues, "But they approach problem-solving differently, using their experience and wisdom as much as muscle."

DC intends to introduce new and younger members to the team once the series is established and Augustyn concludes, "They're experienced, but not old. This team is definitely not for retirement."

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IN BRIEF

Anti-Hitler Comics

For historians and nostalgia buffs alike, **The Tick** publishers, NEC, are launching **Anti-Hitler Comics** as a 32 page black and white oversize title in June.

Each issue will feature two reprints from the Golden Age of Comics, pitting heroes against the Fuhrer.

Setting the tone, issue one contains *Futuro Kidnaps Hitler and Takes Him to Hades*, a very scarce 15 page strip from 1942's **Great Comics 3**. The second story is *The Unknown Soldier* (**Four Favourites #12**, 1944) in which the hero confronts a demon-horned Hitler and Satan hybrid with supernatural powers.

Sounds like a double-bag must.

Carl Barks Library

GLADSTONE continues its album series **The Carl Barks Library of Walt Disney's Comics & Stories in Color** with issue six shipping in June.

With computer aided colouring, the Library series prints five strips per issue in a 8.5 x 11" squarebound format, and when completed (with issue 51) will have covered all of Barks' classic ten-pagers from the original comics series.

Batman teams up with Viking Prince

The Robert Kanigher & Joe Kubert hero of the first 24 issues of **Brave & The Bold**, Jon the Viking Prince, makes a reappearance in **Legends of the Dark Knight 35-36**.

Bo Hampton, who revived the character for **Viking Glory** (released as a trade paperback in June) will be drawing the two part adventure.

Written by Mark Kneece, a contributor to Epic's **Hellraiser** series, the story tells of a descendent of the original Viking Prince bringing his war against the pollution-spreading Valhalla Corporation to Gotham.

Assisted by Batman, he tells him of an ancient myth when a previous incarnation of the Dark Knight had teamed up with his own Viking ancestor.

Priced $1.75, **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 35** will ship on June 16.

Doom Patrol trade ppbk

GRANT MORRISON's tenure as author of **The Doom Patrol** began with little publicity at issue 19, the first of a 4-part reconstruction story, "Crawling from the Wreckage".

With his work and reputation growing since those early days, DC is issuing a trade paperback reprinting the 4-parter.

Doom Patrol: Crawling from the Wreckage trade paperback is 192 pages, priced $19.95 and ships on June 30th to direct sale outlets.

Shatner's Tek Wars

Star Trek's William Shatner became a best-selling novelist with his science fiction paperback **Tek Wars** and Epic is now to produce a comics adaptation.

Ron Goulart and Lee Sullivan tell the story of 21st century Los Angeles ex-cop Jake Cardigan, who had been framed for dealing an addictive brain stimulant, "Tek", and was sentenced to fifteen years in suspended animation.

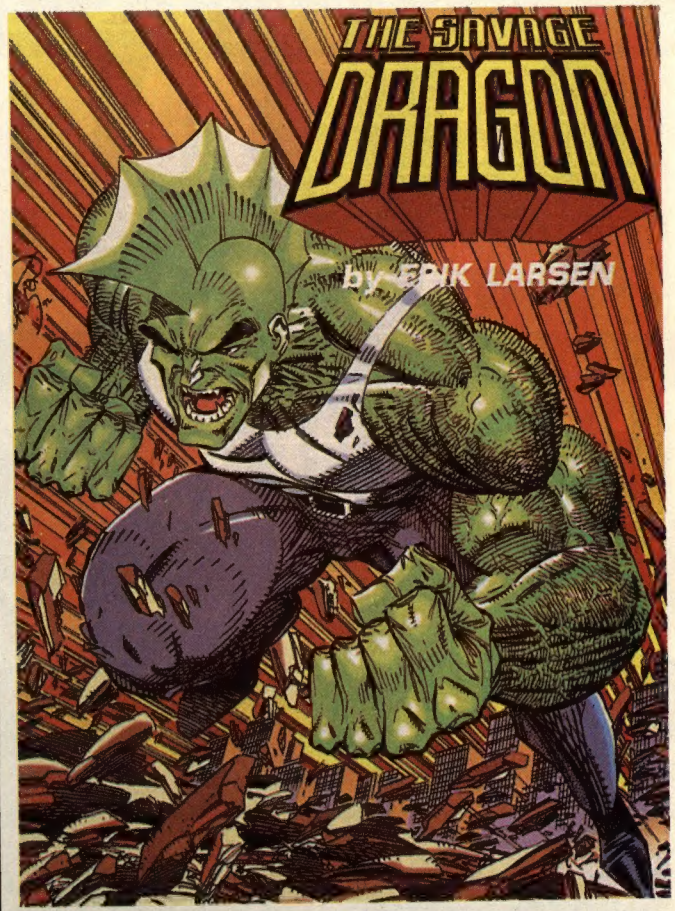
Mysteriously released after serving only four years, Jake is out for revenge.

William Shatner's Tek Wars is a monthly $1.75 series, with issue one shipping on July 28.

Boys' Ranch rescheduled

DESPITE the book being a reprint, Marvel has rescheduled the 208 page collection of Simon & Kirby's classic 6-issue 1950s western series, **Boys' Ranch**.

The $39.95 hardback, originally to be shipped in January, will now be available mid-July.



Erik (**Spider-Man**) Larsen's mean, green fighting machine, **The Savage Dragon** premieres in June as the third Image Comics title.

Written and drawn by its creator, Erik Larsen admits that he first had the idea for this character twenty years ago but has only now got around to telling it!

The story concerns an unidentified green adult male being found naked in a field, with no knowledge of his past. He is taken to Chicago and, after thorough testing, is released to the care of policeman Frank Darling.

But the Chicago into which the Dragon (as he has been nicknamed) is released has been going to pieces. With its ever-growing population of mutants and super-humans, it has almost been taken over.

Its local hero, SuperPatriot, has become a paraplegic and other heroes struggle to carry on his work.

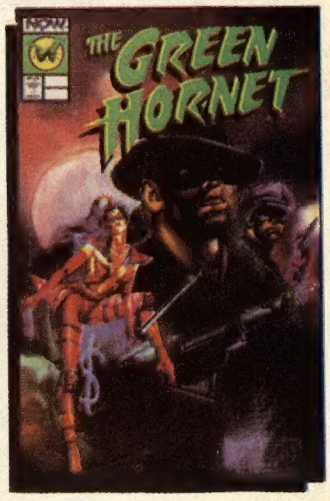
His training completed, the Dragon is welcomed into the police department as a one-man S.W.A.T. team. His job: to take back the city.

Following Liefeld's **Youngblood**, McFarlane's **Spawn** and now Larsen's $1.95 **Savage Dragon**, Image has four more new titles:

- Jim Lee's **Wild C.A.T.s: Covert Action Team #1** (July)
- Rob Liefeld's **Brigade #1** (July)
- Marc (**Wolverine**) Silvestri's **Cyberforce #1** (August)
- Jim (**Guardians of the Galaxy**) Valentino's **Shadowhawk #1** (Aug)

No announcements have yet been made about the new projects being prepared by Whilce Portacio and Chris Claremont.

Now Comics is releasing two versions of their June shipping ***Green Hornet 12****. The continuing direct sale edition, sub-titled Anniversary Special #1, contains a free colour badge, while a special oneshot newsstand edition will be without the polybagged badge, but will have different cover art. Both retail at $2.50 and are by Chuck Dixon (script) and Tod Smith + David Mowry (art).*



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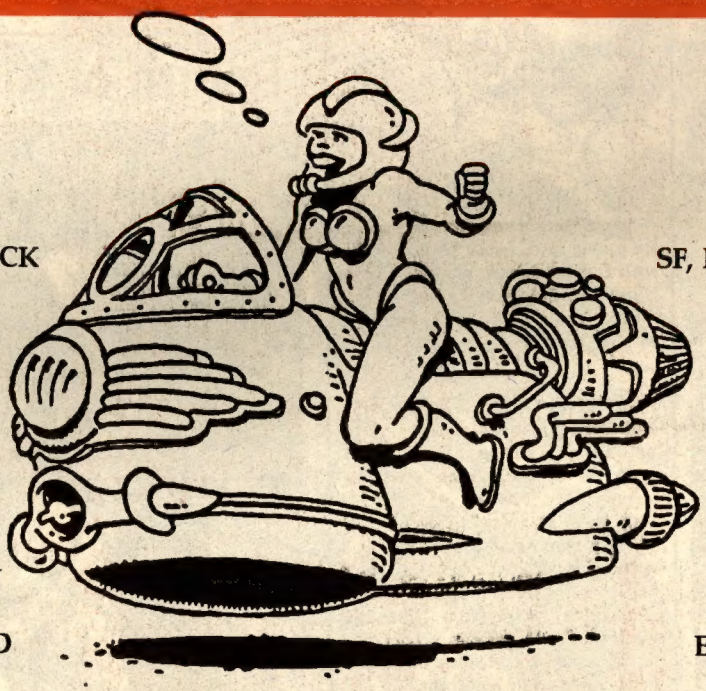

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IN BRIEF

Venus Wars II

DARK HORSE is producing a second series of **The Venus Wars**, beginning with a special 48-page $2.95 issue of the translated Japanese strip shipping on June 2.

The Hacker Files

Aiming at computer lovers as well as comics fans, DC is launching a new monthly $1.95 title, **The Hacker Files**.

Rescheduled to June 23 shipping for its first issue, the title is by Lewis Shiner, Tom Sutton and Mark Buckingham and features a computer art cover by Tom Canty.

The story tells part one (of 4) of *Soft War*, in which hacker-at-large Jack Marshall is recruited by metal-handed government agent Sarge Steel to cure the NORAD computers of a vicious virus which could destroy any attempt at world peace.

Amazing Heroes closes

FANTAGRAPHICS Books launched **Amazing Heroes** as a mass market comics feature magazine so the company could concentrate on more specialised subjects in its continuing **Comics Journal** title.

It proved so successful, when reduced from standard magazine size to comic format, that the frequency was increased to fortnightly, with annual specials also being produced.

Now, faced with less in-depth but more investment-oriented competition (primarily from **Wizard**), its sales have slumped to a point where it will cease with a double issue, numbered 203-204.

Priced $4.95, the June shipping 148 page issue features a Batman & Lobo cover (Stelfreeze) and a flip cover featuring Concrete (Chadwick).

Inside are interviews with Chadwick, Matt Wagner and Alan Grant, a *Hero History* on Mr Mxyzptlk, a look at Green Lantern, plus regular columns.

Its passing is to be lamented, because with the last issue of **Amazing Heroes** also ends the age of fan-edited article 'zines which had blossomed in the 1960s and led directly to the creation of the currently dominant direct sale market.

Aliens 3 adaptation

Dark Horse has a double-dose of Aliens shipping in June. In addition to the second and final part of **Aliens: Newt's Tale** (adapted from the original James Cameron screenplay by Mike Richardson with art by Somerville and Garvey), **Aliens 3** begins.

Scripted by **Whisper's** Steven Grant, the film adaptation is drawn by newcomer Christopher Taylor and **The Question's** Rick Magyar.

A three issue $2.50 full colour series, **Aliens 3 #1** ships June 2.

Claremont & Hughes on Star Trek

The long-awaited graphic novel, **Star Trek: Debt of Honour** by Chris Claremont and Adam Hughes is finally to ship on July 7.

It follows the career of James T. Kirk as he alone realizes the entire galaxy is threatened.

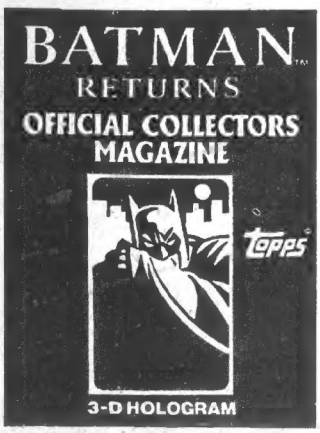
Assembling a covert strike team for a suicide mission, he heads out with the Enterprise alongside both Klingon and Romulan allies.

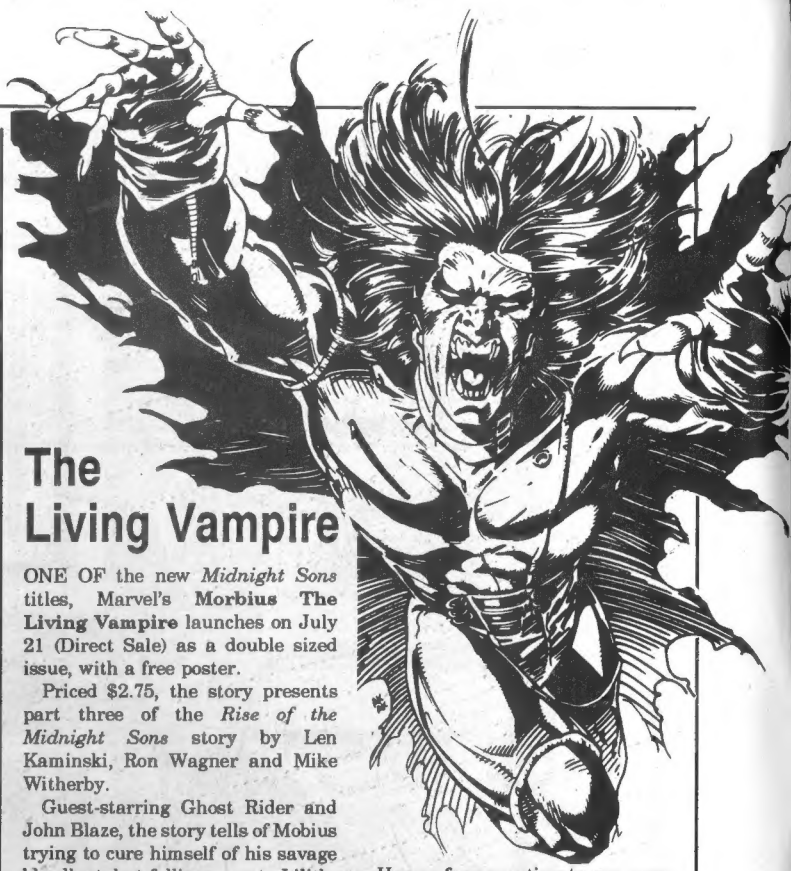
Star Trek: Debt of Honor is a 96 page hardback priced $24.95.

Batman Returns cards

Industry leaders, Topps, is producing a range of Batman products to tie-in with the film sequel.

As well as two sets of trading cards (regular and stadium club - with embossed silver-foil logo), they are creating five Batman movie magazines, with the **Official Collector's Magazine** (obviously for anyone who collects officials) featuring a cover hologram.





The Living Vampire

ONE OF the new *Midnight Sons* titles, Marvel's **Morbius The Living Vampire** launches on July 21 (Direct Sale) as a double sized issue, with a free poster.

Priced $2.75, the story presents part three of the *Rise of the Midnight Sons* story by Len Kaminski, Ron Wagner and Mike Witherby.

Guest-starring Ghost Rider and John Blaze, the story tells of Mobius trying to cure himself of his savage bloodlust, but falling prey to Lilith.

Parts One and Two of the *Midnight Sons* story appear in the June shipping **Ghost Rider 28** ($2.50) and **Spirits of Vengeance 1** ($2.75), both of which contain fold-out posters.

Horror fans wanting to see more of Mobius should look out for the Roy Thomas & Gil Kane reprint edition of **Amazing Spider-Man 101** ($1.75, ships July 21) which features the character's first appearance.

Return of Kid Miracleman

FOLLOWING the disappointing **Miracleman** mini-series, the continuing title resumes with the top UK creative team of Barr Windsor-Smith (covers), Neil Gaiman (story) and Mark Buckingham (art).

The full colour $2.50 issue 25 features the revived Dickie Dauntless (Young Miracleman) spending his days totally lost in the modern world, following his "death" decades ago. His nights are haunted by restless sleep and nightmares of Johnny Bates, Kid Miracleman – The Adversary. But are they *really* only dreams?

Miracleman 25 ships in July.

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Martian Manhunter in new prestige mini-series

OUT OF the plethora of new titles DC is shipping in July and August, the most visually stunning is the new 3-part series starring the company's first Silver Age hero, J'onn J'onzz, Manhunter from Mars.

Drawn by master craftsman Eduardo Barreto (**Unauthorised Biography of Lex Luther**, **Shadow Strikes**, etc), the series is written by Gerard Jones and explores the hero's tortured early years on Earth.

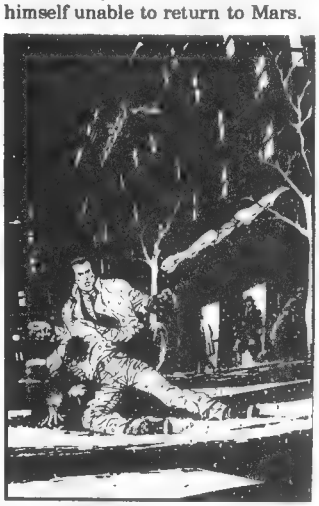
Recently reprinted in the $1.00 *Silver Age Classics* series (as a back-up strip in **Detective Comics 225**), J'onn J'onzz first adventure told how he was accidentally pulled to Earth by a scientist and found himself unable to return to Mars.

The new mini-series remains true to the origin, and is set in the middle of America's paranoid 1950s, when the country was gripped by a "Red Scare", and believed any foreigner to be a communist spy.

As the ultimate alien in America, J'onzz cloaked his identity from everyone, transforming himself into an average citizen, John Jones. Unlike Superman, who performed his heroic deeds in public, he would save the day in secret.

The series tells how the stranded Martian comes to terms with the alien and oppressive American society of the times.

Priced $4.95, **Martian Manhunter: American Secrets 1** ships on August 4.



DC's summer explosion

RECOGNISING the potential new wave of comics reading following the anticipated success of **Batman Returns**, DC has a huge wave of new launches set for June and July.

Outside of titles covered elsewhere, they are:

● **The Batman Gallery** ($2.95, 32 pages glossy stock, no ads, ships July 7) A comic-sized pin-up volume of rare and never-before-seen images of Batman and his supporting cast. Includes John Bolton, Bob Powell, Neal Adams, Todd McFarlane, Bob Kane & Jerry Robinson, George Perez, Joe Kubert, Dick Giordano and Mike Zeck.

● **Robin Annual 1** ($2.50; 64 pages standard format; ships July 14) Grant, Wagner, Lyle and Hanna continue the *Eclipso* theme as Robin faces an Eclipso-Anarky.

● **Demon Annual 1** ($3.00; 64 pages; new format; ships June 23) Alan Grant has Klarion the Witch Boy and Teekl in Nihilo's castle, with one of Eclipso's black diamonds, causing trouble for Etrigan.

● **Cosmic Odyssey trade paperback** ($19.95; 200 pages; ships July 7) Reprinting the Starlin & Mignola mini-series with Highfather and Darkseid as an unlikely alliance against an even bigger foe. Guests include Superman, Batman, Martian Manhunter and Guy Gardner.

● **Hammerlocke 1** (of 9; $2.50; 48 pages; new format; ships July 21) 21st century action from Joyner, Sprouse and KS Wilson based around The Starbridge, an actual lift to Earth orbit which is protected by an elite guard of super-humans.

When deadly sabotage strikes, only the Bridge's creator, the brilliant cyborg known as Hammerlocke can help.

● **Cool World Movie Adaptation** ($3.50; 64 pages; new format; ships July 7) Eury & Kupperberg adapt Ralph Bakshi's live action and cartoon fantasy.

● **Deathstroke the Terminator Annual 1** ($3.50; 64 pages; new format; ships July 21) Wolfman, Statema and Jiminez team Deathstroke and Vigilante against the power of Eclipso.

● **Sandman: Season of the Mists** collection (244 pages; hardback: $29.95; ships July 21; trade paperback $19.95; ships August 4) Collecting Neil Gaiman's award-winning storyline from **Sandman 22-28**. New McKean cover art.

● **The Heckler 1** (ongoing; 32 pages; standard format; $1.25; ships July 21) The Giffen & Bierbaum team create more lunacy with a new offbeat hero who's in it for the fun. Art by Keith Giffen & Malcolm Jones III.

● **Ambush Bug Special 1** (oneshot; 64 pages; standard format; $2.50; ships August 4) The Bug is seeking employment, courtesy of creators Giffen & Fleming, and takes his resume to Lobo, Death, Sandman Aquaman and ex-editor Julie Schwartz. A special that parodies everything. Art by Al Gordon and Chris Sprouse.

● **Peter Cannon - Thunderbolt 1** ($1.25; 32 pages; standard format; continuing; ships July 14) British writer and penciller Mike Collins teams with inker Joe Marzan Jr to bring the 1960s Charlton action hero into the DC universe.

With this massive growth in product, leaving Marvel trailing in their wake, DC appears to have put back the originally scheduled summer releases which include: **Sgt Rock, Captain Atom** (mini), **Tell Me Dark, Hellblazer 1-9** trade paperback, **Irbnwolf** hardcover by Chaykin and the **Guy Gardner** continuing series.

Maybe in September ...

Femforce's 50th Special

DIRECT SALE publisher Bill Black celebrates the fiftieth issue of his AC Comics **Femforce** title in June.

The 44 page colour special is priced $2.95 and includes a free flexi-disc of the Femforce theme song, performed by The Keys ("Something Special"), intended for the forthcoming **Femforce** movie.

Inside the issue, by series creators Bill Black and Mark Heike, the long-running *Countdown to Victory* serial concludes, with special guests Miss Masque, Yankee Girl, Jet Girl, Buckaroo Betty, Garganta and the Avenger. The group's origin is also retold.

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BY

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This erotic, violent, 'No Future' reworking of J M Barrie's famous children's story sheds a new light on Peter Pan, Wendy, Tinkerbell and the eternal triangle! Borrowing from the style of Walt Disney's animated feature, **PETER PANK** is recast as a punk with his violent gang of lost boys. Captain Hook becomes Teddy Boy, **CAPTAIN QUIFF.** Fairyland becomes Punkland and **TINKERBELL** is the sexiest fairy ever seen in Comics.

When Peter brings vivacious punkette Wendy and her brothers to Punkland, it takes no time at all for the island's rival gangs of Punks, Hippies and Teddy Boys to be at each other's throats, not to mention the jealous Tinkerbell, Peter's tiny titillating companion.

Max (real name a secret) was born in Barcelona in 1959. He has been drawing non-stop since he was given his first pencil. His work is regularly published in Spanish and French magazines, and he draws a regular strip for the Spanish newspaper El Pais. A master of the 'clear line' style of comic art, he is a prolific poster artist. Several albums of his work have been published in Spain, and this full-colour fantasy, **PETER PANK** is his first book published in English.

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Return of the Eagle Awards

ESTABLISHED in 1977 by **Edge of Forever** comic shop's Mike Conroy in conjunction with Richard Burton (now editor of **2000AD**), The Eagle Awards have become recognised both in Britain and America as the comics industry's leading awards, with titles such as **The Uncanny X-Men** and **2000AD** cover-mentioning being winners.

In 1983, *Titan Books'* Nick Landau came in as joint administrator of the *Eagles* until, in 1990, Titan took complete control of running the annual awards.

Due to the continued growth of the Titan companies (as publishers and distributors), it did not prove practical for them to continue, resulting in no Eagle Awards being presented in 1991.

But for 1992 and onwards, the awards are back where they started, with Mike Conroy.

Both Richard Burton and Nick Landau will remain as advisors, but the administrative chores will now be handled by Mike.

The established sponsorship arrangements will continue as before (for details contact Mike on 081-298 1363) and it is anticipated that more than 12,000 forms (nomination and final vote) will be distributed through comic shops over the next two months for the awards presentation to take place at this year's United Kingdom Comic Art Convention, being held in London on September 19-20th.

Fleetway to license graphic novels

THE award-winning line of Fleetway-produced **2000AD** graphic novels are to be licensed to Octopus Books in autumn, under the new imprint of Mandarin.

The six titles currently in production are:

- **Young Death** (Wagner & Docherty, from **Megazine 1-12**)
- **Raptaur** (Grant & Ormstrum, from **Megazine 11-17**)
- **ABC Warriors Books 1 & 2** (Mills & Walker, from **2000AD** 750-757, 781-784 and 786-789)
- **Killing Time** (Smith & Weston, from **2000AD** 735-744)
- **The Devil You Know** (Wagner & Anderson, from **2000AD** 750-756).

New Phantom comic for UK

THE GROWTH trend in new UK-based publishing houses continues apace with the recently-announced establishment of Wolf Publishing, which launches its line with **The Phantom**, a Scandinavian strip licensed from King Features.

Wolf has been formed by Redan Co. (headed up by ex-Marvel UK managing director Robert Sutherland) in partnership with Phil Clarke and Sue Williams from the Birmingham-based retailer Nostalgia & Comics.

The Phantom, scheduled for shipping in July 1992, will appear in American comic book format, printed in full colour, (32pg) and will retail at 99p ($2.25).

Styled as "the nemesis of evil-doers", The Phantom is the 21st descendant of the sole survivor of a pirate-raid, adopted by the indigenous pygmies of a Pacific island (who believe him to be immortal) and sworn to exact vengeance on all villains.

HIS DESCENDANTS DO FOLLOW HIM... IN EVERY GENERATION. JUNGLE FOLK AND SEAFARERS... THINK HIM THE SAME MAN...
THE PHANTOM... THE GHOST WHO WALKS.
THE MAN WHO CAN NEVER DIE.

In order to attract new English-language readers, the 28pg Phantom story (by Felmang and Tierres, who have an established following in Scandinavia) will be backed up with six pages of additional material by recognised comics creators.

In **Phantom 1**, these will include John Ridway (**2000AD**, Marvel, DC), Steve Pugh (**2000AD**, Dark Horse, DC) and UKCAC Best Newcomer Award-winning Dean Ormston (**Judge Dredd Megazine**). Cover artwork is by Mike Higgs, artist on the **Daily Mirror**'s strip **Baz & Co.**.

New publisher for UK Aliens title

THOUGH **Talking Turkey** and Marvel UK's **Complete Spider-Man** (reprinting the four US Spidey titles in a UK monthly anthology) have both been cancelled, Trident has been somewhat artistic with the truth in announcing on the cover and editorial of **Aliens 16** that it is also a last issue.

Issue 17 had always been planned to be in the newsagents one month after 16, but from a different publisher, Dark Horse International.

From their new London offices (at 16-24 Underwood Street, London N1 9EF) they promise a new look to the title, following #17 (on sale 21/5) which ties up the Trident-published storylines.

The next month Volume 2 number 1 (on sale 21/6; £1.50; 48 pages; full colour) beings the new look, with an original cover by **Aliens 3** sculptor Chris Halls, plus interior strips *Aliens: Hive, Predator: Cold War* and, prior to US publication *Aliens: Newt's Tale.*

Commissioned for future issues is work by Colin MacNeill, Paul Johnson and Christian Gorny.

Dark Horse's editorial director, Michael Bennent, also told **Comics International** that the company will be publishing a UK news trade 2-issue adaptation of **Aliens 3** (£1.50, 48 pages, July) and that a range of Dark Horse's US titles may soon be on sale nationally in Britain, through Seymour Distributors, priced £1.00.

UK Comic Art Awards '92

THE UK Comic Art Awards winners at this year's Glasgow Comic Art Convention (14th-15th March) were:

Best Writer	John Wagner
Best Artist	Simon Bisley
Best Writer/Artist	Frank Miller
Best Newcomer	Dean Ormston
Best Letterer	Annie Parkhouse
Best Publisher	DC Comics
Best Character	Judge Dredd
Best Original Gr Nvl	**Judgement on Gotham**
Best Book Collection	**America**
Best Translated Gr Nvl	**Heart Throbs**
Best New Publication	**Blast!**
Best Ongoing Title	**The Megazine**
Special Career Achievement Award	John Wagner

THE 1992 LONDON-BASED UK Comic Art Convention will be held on the weekend of 18th-20th September at the Insitute of Education and the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1.

The publishers' room will be open to retailers from 12noon until 4pm on the Trade and Press Day, (Friday 18th September), followed by publishers' presentations and a bar hosted by Titan Distributors.

IN BRIEF

Mutated humour

KEV F. Sutherland's **Sport**-published **UT** continues to target comic fans as well as the mainstream humour market with its current issue (#5; £1.00) featuring a flip-cover spoof: *The Unfortunate X-Cema* by newcomer Wilte Pishachio.

THE UNFORTUNATE
X-CEMA
I EXPOSED MYSELF TO RADIATION SO I'D BECOME A MUTANT & GET MY OWN MILLION-SELLING COMIC—
AND ALL I GOT WAS SKIN CANCER!

Fleetway Mega-crossover

IN KEEPING with the popular American trend, Fleetway Editions will be promoting its new fortnightly scheduled **Judge Dredd Megazine** with a twenty episode crossover story appearing in both **The Megazine** and **2000AD**.

Titled *Judgement Day*, little has been released about the plotline, except that three billion people die and the face of Dredd's world is changed forever... as would be expected with the death of three billion people.

Red Rain UK

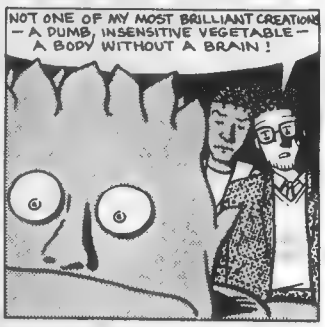
TITAN Books' latest DC-licensed edition is the superb **Batman v Dracula: Red Rain** (Doug Moench, Kelley Jones & Malcolm Jones III). Priced £5.95, the full colour 96 page title is on sale in June.

Titan is also expanding its publishing line through a new non-fiction imprint *Mondo Books*, specialising in subjects "where truth is stranger than fiction".

Tundra UK

THE London-based arm of Kevin Eastman's company has a wide range of new titles launching soon, including **Lazarus Churchyard**

(Ellis & D'Israeli), **Sherlock Holmes and the Vanishing Villain** (Rennie & Phoenix), **Doghead** (**Big Numbers'** Al Columbia) and **Greenhouse**



Warriors (Dakin & Elliott).

With their June release dates, full coverage will be appearing next issue.

Psychetecture

MAURETANIA Comics' Chris Reynolds and Paul Harvey have an additional venue for their *Psychetecture* exhibition ("The manifesto for a new art generation").

Following its recent appearance as part of the Pullit Gallery's **Exploration into the Art of Comics** held in Camden, North London, it will be displayed at The Brain Club, 11 Wardour Street, London W1 from May 11 to June 7.

Regional tour dates are to be announced.

Thunderbirds in Japan

SHONEN Magazine, Japan's most successful comic book, is to issue a **Thunderbirds Special** following the successful relaunch of the Anderson tv series through Japanese cable network *The Super Channel*.

The popularity of the '60s tv series has proven so great that a wide range of merchandise is now in production including toys, electronic games, photo-books and the **Thunderbirds** musical.

Other territories planning merchandising launches for **Thunderbirds** include France in autumn and the United States in 1993.

Something in the blood?

TWO more British creators are currently involved in horror projects for American publishers:

● **V for Vendetta**'s David Lloyd has a follow-up to the 2-part **Hellblazer** story he drew for DC earlier. Scheduled for issue 56 (shipping June 23), it tells the Garth Ennis story of *Danny Drake's Diary*, which revealed some disturbing secrets.

● Alan Burrows, currently on view as Fleetway's **Red Dwarf** artist, is drawing **Doctor Giggles** for Dark Horse.

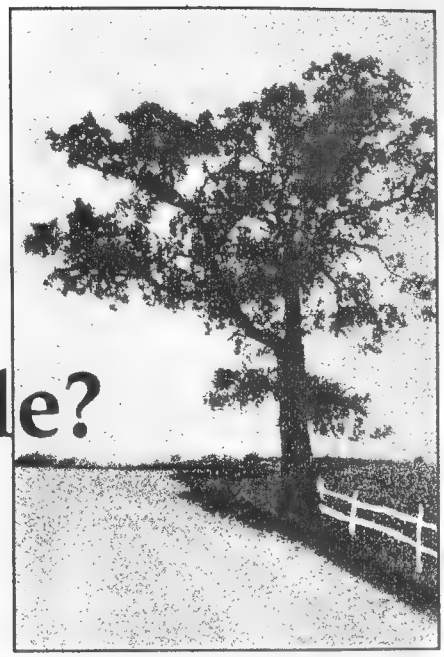
A prequel to the forthcoming movie starring Larry Drake (Benny of *L.A. Law*), it tells a grisly story of a mental institution with doctors seemingly stranger than their patients!

Dynamic artist

Following the recent signing at Croydon's *Dynamic Comics*, writer-artist Dave Gibbons selected the top entry in the shop's art competition.

The full colour **Doom Patrol** painting which won (partially illustrated below) was produced by 17 year old Matthew Cooling, a Beckenham-based student who hopes to become a full-time comics artist in the future.

Is the grass *always* greener on the other side?

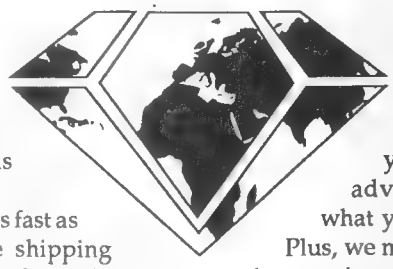


Choosing the right distributor just might give you a whole new perspective on the world.

How fast can you ship my books? As a comic store retailer, that's the first question you might ask when choosing a distributor for American comics, graphic novels, and related merchandise.

But the answer is almost always the same– no distributor has a real advantage in release time over its competition.

So where is the grass greener?



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The Need for a Comic Book Guide for Great Britain

An editorial by
Derek G. Skinn

FOR ANYONE steeped in comics history, it is very easy to criticise such an enormous undertaking as the annual compilation of the **Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain** because of a small percentage of errors. But for the majority, the sheer wealth of correct information will more than compensate for mistakes. The problem is that any guide risks rewriting history whenever it is inaccurate.

Unlike copy in a magazine which can be corrected a month later, the accuracy of any *reference* work (from a dictionary to a phone directory) must be reliable, or it negates its own function.

Perhaps the most important question for the **Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain** is, to paraphrase, who edits the editor? It is still essentially a labour of love, with nobody to correct contributors' and typesetter's mistakes.

Crediting Brian Bolland as the first British artist "to make it in America" undermines the work of, among others, Barry Windsor-Smith (primarily on **Conan**) and Paul Neary's first major work, *Hunter* in **Warren's Eerie**. This work launched creators into successful careers and should not be so underrated - especially as they are mentioned elsewhere in the guide.

Looking at my own involvement in the industry, there are major mistakes concerning my past publications (**House of Hammer, Warrior**, etc) and my feature in this year's edition was printed crediting the owner of Titan Books with editing **2000AD**!

These and other such mistakes *must* be avoided: they devalue the huge effort expended and are easily preventable through the services of a good proof-reader.

But to the media and outside world, Duncan McAlpine's continued production of the Guide (the 1992-1993 edition being his fourth) has successfully promoted the UK acceptance of comics collecting, unlike many of his detractors who prefer only to criticise.

Realising that his main audience, being relatively new to comics, may not have the encyclopedic knowledge of veterans, Duncan has expanded the features section, bringing this year's total page count to over 670. It could be argued that such features are of the greatest importance, as indications of specific comics' values are a constant source of controversy.

Given that the key UK dealers (including Duncan's co-owned company) look ever more to the monthly US price guides for current values and US dealers for back issues, the British Guide is in a Canute-like position, attempting to maintain an independent level for UK values but failing to reflect any individual dealer's actual selling prices or a current market average.

Duncan once wrote that he considered the UK market to be "inevitably drawn closer to thre American", and so, with the wide availability of American guides in UK outlets, a UK guide listing values for US comics surely becomes redundant.

But its true strength lies in its coverage of the British industry, both creators and creations, where it is without peer, and in its US statistics and historical information, which increase with each edition. These areas are of unique worth, to the point where the guide could more appropriately, if less commercially, be titled **The Comic Book Companion**.

Behind this year's somewhat obscurely themed 24-hour 'rescue' cover by Sean Philips (when Brian Bolland failed to meet his deadline), Duncan has assembled a far better range of features than in previous years.

Paul Sassienie's column is amusing and much improved on last year's, although most of his *comics cock-ups* could easily be found in the **Marvel No Prize** oneshot (nm value: £1.00).

Of particular note are handy indices detailing the first five appearances of popular super-heroes, first appearance (for all major characters) and reprints (making scarce titles accessible). Paul Gravett's pronunciation guide is both excellent and amusing. Also included are UK creator-biographies (with some unusual entries and omissions) and the beginning of a monumental index of appearances of all major comics characters.

Features come from US experts Bill Cole (on preservation) and Susan Cicconi (on restoration). Ron Bennett writes a frighteningly inaccurate but amusingly nostalgic piece, and there is a feature on signed comics values - after **Comics International** had just said nobody would be likely to produce one!

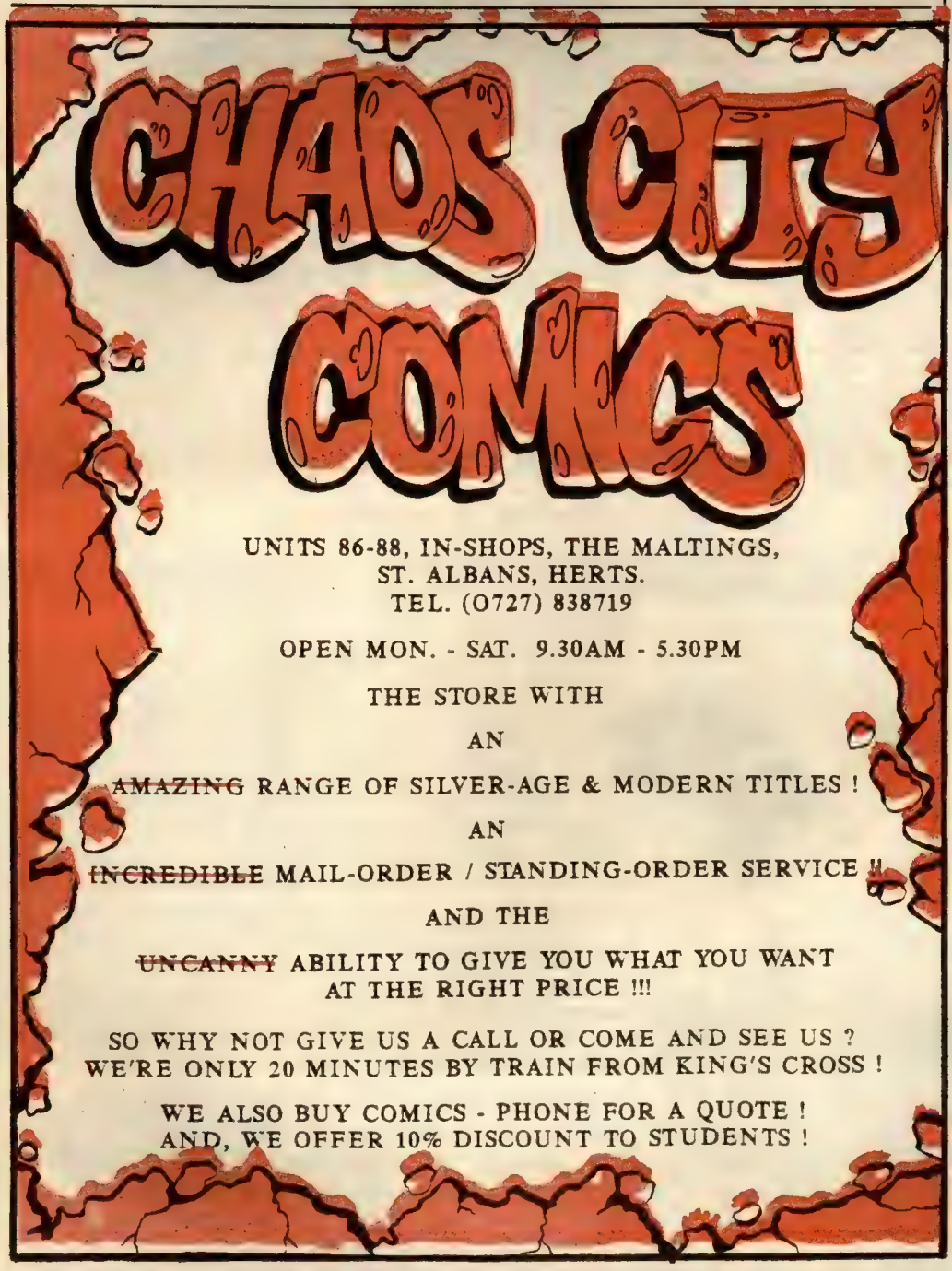
Inevitably there are articles on grading, key issues, historical ages, storage, etc. for new collectors.

The Charts Section has also expanded this year with the inclusion of Top 100 listings for almost every imaginable category, and a worthy sixteen page colour gallery is introduced.

Definitely two books in one, the 1992-3 Guide has over 120 pages of features in addition to the values section. But my main fear is that it may be trying to offer too much. The size and weight of the book makes it difficult to read continuously, encouraging the tendency to only dip in and out, exacerbated by the non-reader friendly layout.

Advertisers find themselves segregated at the back of the book, like a necessary evil through which no reader is given any incentive to wade.

While the Guide is recommended, one has to ask if Duncan should not follow the current American vogue and reach a far larger audience through a more commercial format with its lower cover price. ●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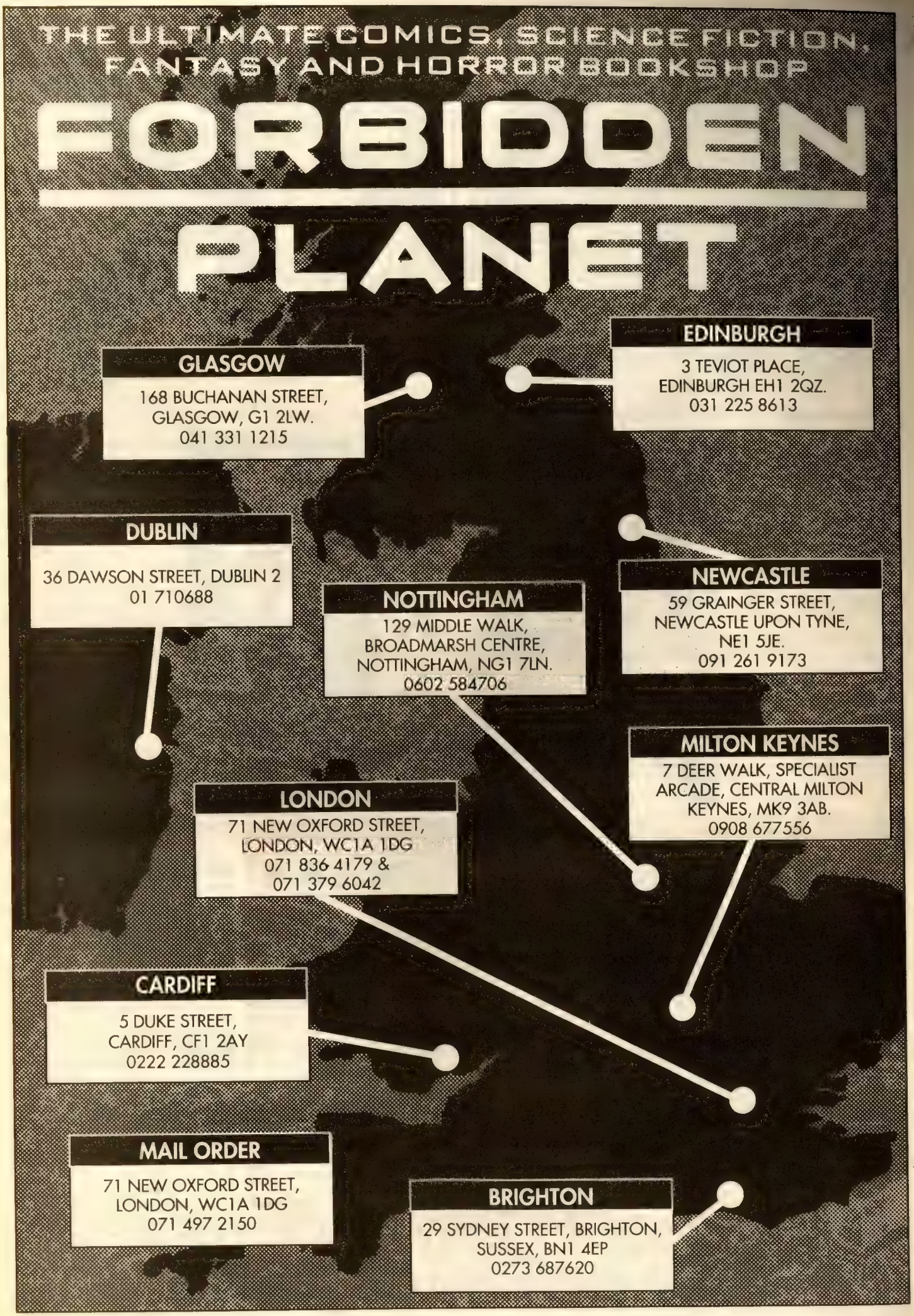
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PREVIEW

LAST year ***Comics International*** *ran a special feature previewing DC's new launches for Summer '91 to Spring '92. In an attempt to regain ground lost to Marvel, 35 new titles were announced. While 40% failed to materialise (15 titles), the company remains undeterred and now plans 91 new comics and books for the Summer '92 to Spring '93 year.*

REGULAR DC Comics' buying readers of **Comics International** may be wondering whatever happened to such planned titles as **Black Lightning**, **Metal Men**, the 4-issue horror anthology **Blood & Shadows**, the nihilistic continuing title **Future Tense** and Mark Wheatley's super-hero mail order catalogue **The Super Image** which we featured in our news section several months ago.

Not only have they failed to be published, but they are also missing from DC's recently announced '92-'93 schedules.

However, many of the delayed '91-'92 launches are included in DC's massive new push (including **Modesty Blaise**, Zelazny's **Nine Prices in Amber**, the Larry Niven/John Byrne **Green Lantern** graphic novel and **The Outsiders**).

At a time when Marvel is alleged to have totally depleted its expensive inventory of unpublished material (even the **Captain America** movie adaptation finally saw print), it is interesting to note that even during an expansion DC remains selective and, at times, cautious in risking new titles.

Yet, despite this apparent caution, the company continues with its revivals of previously-failed super-hero titles as the backbone of its 1992 - 1993 programme, even in the face of the recent cancellation of the entire line of DC Impact titles launched last year.

DC's latest year ahead plan consists of 21 new continuing titles, plus three continuing new archive series, two new annuals, 31 one-shots and 34 mini-series. Scheduled for the remainder of 1992 are the following titles:

Batman: The Art of Neal Adams

192 page one-shot trade paperback; ships October '92; various writers & inkers; Adams

While Carmine Infantino's Batman of the mid-1960s reflected the camp tv series, Neal Adams pioneered the current mood of The Dark Knight with his dark and realistic style.

DC is collecting a range of his late '60s and early '70s Batman strips in a new collection which includes a gallery of Adams cover art.

Batman: The Birth of the Demon

112 page one-shot hardcover graphic novel; ships December '92; O'Neil & Breyfogle

Following the popularity of **Batman: Bride of the Demon** and its follow-up **Batman: Son of the Demon**, this volume reveals the previously untold origin of Ra's Al Ghul, the seemingly immortal Demon. The story tells of Batman tracking down Ra's rebirth pits around the Earth, each located at intersections of mystical leylines. Catching up with Ra's daughter, Talia, Batman hears how Ra's had begun life as a 14th century North African physician and scientist who had led a rebellion against his ruler.

Batman & Green Arrow The Poison Tomorrow

64 page one-shot; prestige format; ships September '92; O'Neil & Netzer + Rubinstein.

When the Black Canary is poisoned by a deadly new virus, Green Arrow discovers that only Poison Ivy can save her. Seeking the aid of her nemesis, Batman, Green Arrow sets out to infiltrate her headquarters, where she has joined forces with an amoral industrialist intent on poisoning baby food and selling the expensive antidote to parents.

Batman: Two Face Strikes Twice

48 pages; 2-issue prestige format mini; launches November '92; Barr & Staton & Gross.

To celebrate Two Face's duality, **Strikes Twice** is a two-issue, double covered, fortnightly title featuring, naturally, two stories.

From Mike Barr scripts, Joe Staton draws a pen and ink story set shortly after the first meeting of Batman and Two Face, while painter Daerick Gross illustrates a present-day tale involving the unresolved element of the first story.

Batman: 1993

Next year's plans include a **Batman & Houdini** *Elseworlds* prestige format one-shot and a Joker graphic novel by Doug Moench, Kelley Jones and Malcolm Jones III. Further details next issue.

Congorilla

32 pages; 4-issue new format mini; launches Sept '92; Englehart & Vokes.

Created during DC's fixation with apes and dinosaurs in **Action Comics 248** (Jan, 1959), the Golden Gorilla was a device to revive the flagging popularity of Jungle Jim-like 1950s character Congo Bill.

When Rick Veitch revived the character for **Swamp Thing Annual 3**, Congo Bill chose to no longer 'swap' minds, but instead to retain the powerful body of the ape, while leaving the beast's own mind trapped in his human body, guarded by Bill's young assistant, Janu.

Steve Englehart is to take up the storytelling, with an adult Janu, now a hard-hearted businessman, using the magic ring to thrust Bill's mind into his own hospitalised body, while he takes savage control of the golden ape.

NO
SOMEDAY, YOU'LL HAVE TO TEACH ME TO TALK LIKE THAT -- YOU KNOW, TERSE AND SCARY.
FOR NOW, THOUGH, YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME THE GOOD DOCTOR
SO WE MAKE LIKE JOHN WAYNE AND JIMMY STEWART? BEAT EACH OTHER SENSELESS? MALE BONDING THROUGH MAYHEM?
LOOK, IF THAT'S HOW IT HAS TO BE, I'M UP FOR IT BECAUSE I'M TAKING PARSONS BACK TO SEATTLE WITH ME
NOT EVEN A TERSE AND SCARY DARK KNIGHT'S GONNA STOP ME.
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN
IF IT'LL SAVE TIME AND SORE KNUCKLES SURE

Above: *An Adams-esque page from* ***Batman & Green Arrow: The Poison Tomorrow.***
Below: *The Golden Gorilla,* ***Congorilla****, proves who's king of the jungle.*

Above: *Ferrin Colos, Darkstar, an interplanetary policeman assigned to the DC superhero universe of Earth in the new* ***Darkstars*** *series by Michael Firedman and Larry Stroman.*
Below: *First it was "Love After Death", now it's total madness after death as Deadman returns for a new two-issue Baron & Jones mini-series where the ghost of Boston Brand goes totally insane.*

Described by DC as a mean anti-hero book in the tradition of Lobo, the series features cover artwork by Lobo's Simon Bisley.

Darkstars

32 pages; ongoing; new format; launches September '92; Friedman & Stroman + Charest + Hanna.

Continuing DC's growth of the Green Lantern "family", the Darkstars are a gritty and sombre group of intergalactic peacekeepers, a counterpoint to the Green Lantern Corps.

Ferrin Colos, the Darkstar assigned to Earth, will exist deeply within the DC super-hero universe, and crossovers are planned with **Green Lantern, Hawkman** and **The Flash**.

Deadman

48 pages; 2-issue prestige mini; launches winter '92; Baron & Jones.

Following the popularity of Kelley Jones work on DC's **Sandman** and **Batman v Dracula: Red Rain**, the artist teams up with writer Mike Baron to produce a second mini-series for **Deadman**, following their 1989 **Love After Death** two-parter.

In a story co-starring The Phantom Stranger, the now-insane Deadman wreaks vengeance on anyone unfortunate enough to near his new home, a deserted Vermont church which becomes a gateway to a hell of his own creation.

Eclipso

32 pages; standard format on-going monthly; launches September '92; Giffen + Fleming & Sears + Elliot.

The DC summer annual crossover starring revived super-villain turned God of Vengeance Eclipso has yet to be seen, but DC has already scheduled an ongoing monthly series for the character.

Aimed at the **Sandman**-buying and super-hero buying audiences alike, the series will be a dark supernatural monthly, as former alter-ego Bruce Gordon forms a team of "Eclipso-busters" to stop the vicious and deadly immortal.

The Geek

32 pages; new format; for mature readers; ongoing monthly; launches winter '92; Petrucha & Truog.

The character lasted only 2 issues in 1968 as a veteran comics writer, Joe Simon, attempted to portray the philosophy of, and reach the advocates of flower power through his mannikin hero, **Brother Power - The Geek**.

In the comics hero reconstruction age of the 1980s, Neil Gaiman successfully revived the character as a 'doll elemental' in **Swamp Thing Annual 5**, proving the fault rarely lies with a character, but rather with its interpretation.

Now a minor demon named Gewl (surely not a Yorkshire demon?) holds the mute and mysterious Doll God captive, and in a **Shade**-like rebirth, placed the soul of a serial murderer in the body of the Doll God's servant, Brother Power.

Goddess

32 pages; for mature readers; 8-issue mini; launches Sept '92; Ennis & Winslade.

Fleetway's Garth Ennis and Phil Winslade combine to produce **Goddess**, a blend of violent satire, black humour and ecological themes. DC describes the title as "Steven King's *Firestarter* as it might have been handled by *The Evil Dead*'s Sam Raimi".

The story tells of how young Rosie Nolan, a paranormal with the power to blast men to the moon or blow their heads completely off, comes to terms with her powers and the full realisation of her abilities.

Pursued around the world by the CIA and a corrupt British police officer, Rosie finds strange allies, including the radical animal rights activist Mudhawk.

Green Lantern: Ganthet's Tale

64 pages; prestige format one-shot; October '92; Larry Niven & John Byrne

Delayed from earlier release, **Ganthet's Tale** teams top science fiction writer Larry Niven with comics writer & artist John Byrne to reveal the entire history of the Green Lantern Corps and their masters, the Guardians of the Galaxy.

Told from a modern-day perspective, Hal Jordan discovers how a looming threat is similar to one of many ages ago, when a renegade Maltusian scientist, Krona, brought the destructive power of entropy into the universe, almost annihilating it.

Ganthet, the youngest Guardian, recruits Hal Jordan and an elderly elf named Percival to fight some of the most powerful beings in the universe to once more prevent destruction.

Also revealed in the one-shot is the true nature of the power rings and how they actually work.

Legionnaires

32 pages; standard format ongoing monthly; launches December '92; T + M Bierbaum & Chris Sprouce.

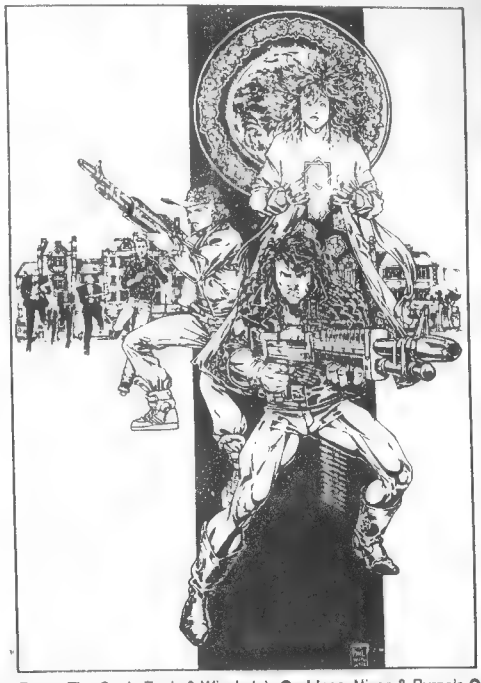
In answer to popular demand, DC will be returning their long-lasting 30th century super-team to its roots, in a series spinning off from the **Legion of Super-Heroes** *Terra Mosaic* storyline.

Legionnaires will establish the birth of the Legion, as an all-new '90s version of the original super-villain fighting team.

Led by Chameleon (the adult Legion's former Chameleon Boy), who assembles the team and serves as its adult advisor, the roll call includes, Live Wire, Cosmic Boy, Catspaw, Triad, Saturn Girl, Quantum, Ferro, Element Lad, Inferno, Ultra Boy, Gossamer, Andromeda, Matter-Eater Lad and others. Some may seem familiar, but we are assured they're nothing like we've ever seen before.

Issue 1 begins with 20 members, though new tryouts begin in issue 2.

DC is calling its December



Above: The mature audience Brother Power The Geek; Ennis & Winslade's **Goddess**; Niven & Byrne's **Green Lantern** graphic novel.

shipping "Legion Month", following its special months for **Justice League**, **Green Lantern** and **Batman**, and will be arranging special Legion promotions.

Legion of Super-Heroes Archives Vol 2

288 pages; ongoing hardcover series; October '92; Swan, Forte and others.

The success of the first book of Legion reprints has led to it becoming a continuing series, representing the original stories in chronological order.

This second volume includes *The Return of Lightning Lad, The Legion of Substitute Heroes* and *The Revenge of the Knave from Krypton*.

Lobo: Frag Race 2000

32 pages; 4-issue new format mini; winter '92 launch, Giffen + Grant & Bisley.

In his next mini-series Lobo is given the job of apprehending a felon who is posing as a racing car driver in the biggest and most dangerous cross-planetary drag race in the universe: the Frag Race 2000.

Signing on as a competitor in the endurance test of man and machine, Lobo is unable to determine which driver is his quarry so, true to form, he decides to frag them all with an abundance of gratuitous violence.

Modesty Blaise

48 pages; 3-issue prestige format mini; launches winter '92, O'Donnell & Giordano.

Rescheduled and revised from being a Spring '92 four part series, Brighton's Peter O'Donnell brings his famous newspaper strip star into her first comic book series.

Trained in all the arts of killing, the orphaned escapee from a middle east refugee camp rose to become

Above: New versions of Cosmic Boy, Saturn Girl and Lightning Lad for **Legionnaires** and the return of **The Outsiders** by Mike Barr, Bryan Hitch and Brad Vancata.

Above: Vampire-hunting heroes from **Scarlett**; Cyborg, Blue Devil and Catwoman from **Showcase '93** and the unexpected return of **The Space Ranger**

leader of Europe's biggest crime cartel before she was 21.

At her peak she retired, but now she's back, helping out the 'good guys', but on her own terms.

The Outsiders

32 pages; ongoing standard format monthly; launches winter '92, Barr & Hitch + Vancata.

Rescheduled from Spring '92, the series will now launch with the simultaneous release of the first two issues, which can either be bought separately or in a two-issue bag with special gift.

The plotline for the new series' first twelve issues concerns the downfall of the original Outsider characters who band together, outside of the law to free Geo-Force's homeland from a Lord of Vampires. In addition to old members Geo-Force, Katana, Looker and Halo, several new members are introduced: Misfit (half-man and half-lion), Faust (hi-tech sorcerer and son of Felix Faust) and battle-armoured Sanction.

Guest stars are set to include both Batman and Superman.

Scarlett

32 pages; ongoing standard format monthly; launches October '92, Joyner + Wilson & Fern

When high school senior Bly Pharis is captured and bitten by a vampire an ancient Nomad prophesy is unleashed upon her. She is transformed into the last hope of her race, the Scarlet Redeemers.

Above: **The Spectre** returns once more, courtesy of John Ostrander and Tom Mandrake, while Walt Simonson's **Superman Special** finally surfaces this winter.

Cursed with powers of the undead for use against such beings, she becomes a new breed of super-heroine who preys upon a new breed of vampire which lives within the corridors of corporate power.

Shazam Archives Vol 1

256 pages; ongoing hardcover series; September '92; C C Beck and others

DC begins a chronological reprinting of the Fawcett one-time contender for Superman's crown as most popular super-hero. Volume One contains Captain Marvel's earliest appearances, in **Whiz Comics 1-15** and 1940's 68 page **Special Edition Comics 1.**

Showcase '93

48 pages; 12 issue standard format mini; launches December '92; Moench & various

With new DC characters now springing straight into their own titles, the revived **Showcase** title will be used for supporting characters, and solo adventures of team members.

Giving the book a commercial edge, the 18 page lead strip in each issue will be Batman related, all scripted by Doug Moench. The first four issues star Catwoman (art by Hannigan), followed by Robin (Kieron Dwyer art), Two-Face (Janson) and The Joker (Bisley).

The second feature will be Blue Devil (#1-6) and Deathstroke, Doctor Light, Katana and Peacemaker taking on Kobra (#7-12).

The final story will be a ten page solo story focusing on such characters as Cyborg, Geo-Force, Flash, Green Lantern, Jade and Obsidian.

Covers for #1-3 will be provided by Art Adams & Terry Austin, Kevin Maguire and Brian Bolland.

The Space Ranger

32 pages; 8 issue new format mini; launches Oct '92; Friedman & Calimee

Filling a gap in DC's future timeline between **Omac** and **The Legion of Super-Heroes,** the new adventures of playboy Rick Farr are set in the 23rd century when the spaceways are patrolled and protected by the legendary Planeteers.

But despite the apparent peace and prosperity, Farr (scornfully dubbed by his father as "Space Ranger") becomes the one being in the universe who can uncover an alien plot and turn the tide in favour of mankind.

The Spectre

32 pages; ongoing new format monthly; launches winter '92; Ostrader & Mandrake

Revived once more, one of DC's oldest supernatural heroes the **Spectre** will once more become involved in tales full of psychological horror and biblical vengeance.

The tone will be similar to the dark and vengeful 'spirit of retribution' approach taken by the ill-fated Fleisher stories in the 1970s **Adventure Comics** rather than the more recent 1980s series.

The new title also investigates the life of The Spectre's previous identity, Jim Corrigan and the problems of immortality.

Star Trek: The Modala Imperative

208 pages; oneshot trade paperback; Sept '92; David + Friedman & Marcos

Collecting the 8-issue mini-series that combined characters from both **Star Trek** and **Star Trek: The Next Generation,** *The Modela Imperative* trade paperback features an introduction by Walter (Chekov) Koenig.

Streets

48 pages; 3-issue prestige format mini for mature readers; launches October '92; Hudnall & Estes Ortaleza + McCrea

A look at the underside of society, **Streets** presents an unflinching account of teenage runaways, prostitution, pornography and police corruption.

Each issue is presented as a complete novel set in San Francisco's Bay area but will share some of the same characters.

Judge Dredd; The Megazine's John McCrea joins newcomers Rob Ortaleza and John Estes as artists on the series by James (**Psycho, Espers**) Hudnall.

Superman: Man of Steel Archives Vol 1

288 pages; annual hardback; September '92; Siegel & Shuster

This new series chronologically reprints the Superman stories from **Action Comics,** with this volume featuring issues 7-25, including the first **Action** appearance of Luthor.

Superman Special

64 pages; new format one-shot; winter '92; Walt Simonson

The much-delayed Walt Simonson one-man special has been rescheduled for this winter.

A reflection of the **Superman 233** story "Kryptonite Nevermore", it features the creation of the sand creature which steals Superman's powers and is set before the death of Lex Luthor.

Timber Wolf

32 pages; standard format 5-issue mini; October '92; Gordon & Phillips + Gordon

Set in present day San Francisco, the mini-series spins off from **Legion of Super-Heroes Annual 3** and sees the legionnaire meet up with Gemini (the god-woman from **LSH 21-24's** "A Quiet Darkness") and battle a super-powered street-smart tough guy named Thrust.

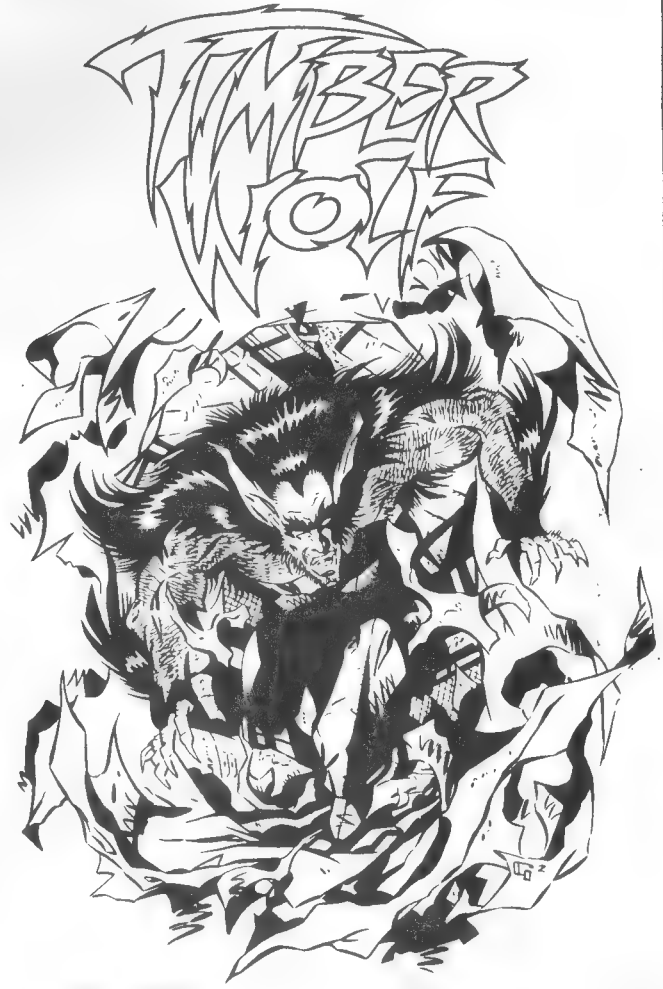
In the tradition of **Lobo** and **Wolverine,** the new series focuses on the rough and tumble Timber Wolf's animal instincts and battle fury and introduces a covert government group intent on assembling super-powered operatives for *Point Force*, a group Timber Wolf is destined to lead.

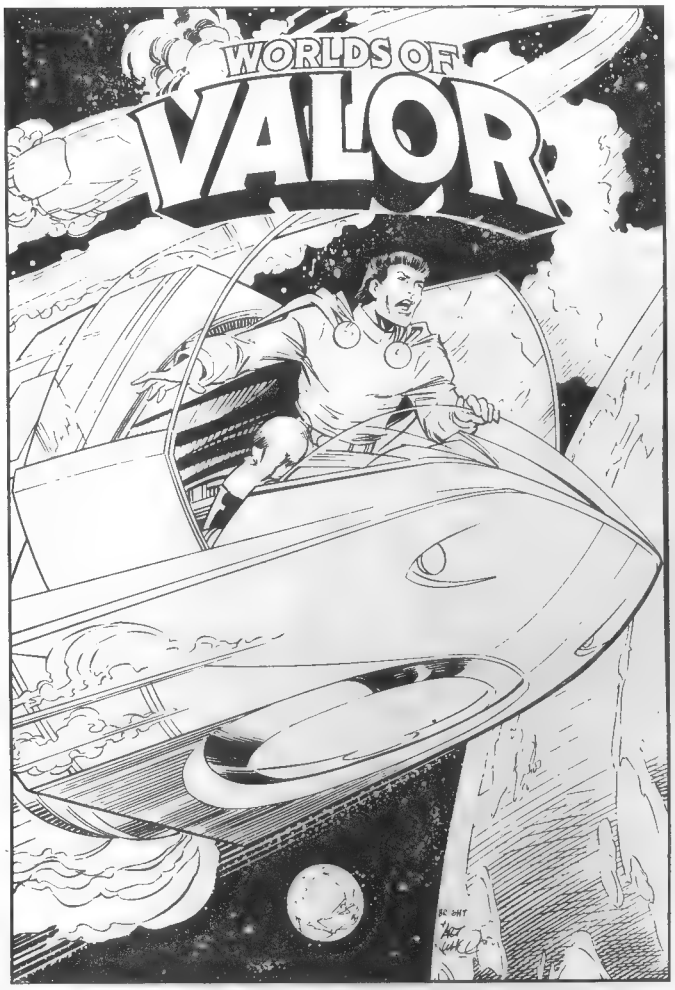
Teen Titans: Genesis

208 pages; one-shot trade paperback; September '92; Wolfman & Perez

Reprinting **New Teen Titans 1-6** and the 16 page preview from DC

Above: *The Titans look surprised with good reason. In* ***The Titans Sell Out*** *one-shot, they hire a public relations company and soon find themselves Saturday morning cartoon stars and the darlings of the media.* ***Below:*** *Trapped in the 20th century, the Legion's* ***Timber Wolf*** *creates a werewolf panic as he prowls through San Francisco.*





Above: *long before becoming a living legend and inspiration for the Legion of Super-Heroes, Valor went racing around the universe in his mini-spacecraft designed by Lex Luthor Jr. All is explained in* ***Worlds of Valor****.*

While it's one of DC's 1993 titles being previewed next issue, here's an advance look at the sample pencil and ink artwork by Steve Leialoha for DC's as yet unscheduled 3-issue adaptation of Douglas Adams' ***Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy****. Adams will be supervising the project, to be written by* ***The Sleeze Brothers'*** *John Carnell and packaged by Byron Preiss's Visual Communications.*

Presents 26, the book introduces villains Trigon and Deathstroke the Terminator as well as new heroes Starfire, Cyborg and Raven.

The Titans Sell Out

64 pages; new format one-shot; October '92; Wolfman & various

The Titans hire a major public relations company to rebuild their image, following the destruction of much of New York in the *Total Chaos* storyline which introduces **Team Titans**.

The story tells of the disastrous consequences of the pr boost and leads directly into **Deathstroke The Terminator 17, New Titans 93** and **Team Titans 4**.

World's Finest Trade Paperback

160 pages; one-shot trade paperback; November '92; Gibbons & Rude + Kesel

Reprinting the 3-issue mini-series in which orphans Superman and Batman took on Lex Luthor and The Joker in a battle to save an orphanage situated between Metropolis and Gotham City.

Worlds of Valor

32 pages; ongoing standard format monthly; September '92; Fleming & Bright

Following the **Eclipso: Darkness Within** series, space explorer Lar Gand gains his own continuing series after being manipulated by the God of Vengeance.

The teenage native of the planet Daxam earns the name *Valor* from Superman himself in **Eclipso: The Darkness Within #2** and then, following his recovery from injuries battling Eclipso, sets out in a small spacecraft created by Lex Luthor Jr.

The stories continue to be set in the 20th century, long before the hero is recruited by the 30th century Legion of Super-Heroes, and show how Valor's powers can mutate when under alien suns.

A new look and new costume is also promised for the character who becomes the legendary figure upon whose legacy the (post-Crisis) Legion is founded.

DC PIRANHA TITLES

IN ADDITION to its mainstream new launches, DC continues to invest in its commitment to diversity through the company's *Next Wave* imprint, Piranha Press.

The one continuing Piranha title, **Beautiful Stories for Ugly Children** ceases with issue 30 ($2.50, shipping June 30), but a line of new titles is being scheduled, with six for winter 1992, three already planned for 1993 and a range of *Piranha Music* titles, following the success of the Price **Alter Ego** oneshot.

Piranha's 1992 releases are:

Boneheads in Ghost Town

96 pages; Two 6 x 9" black & white issues; winter '92 launch; Motter/Stathis & Motter

A fictional biography of the greatest rock act that *never* was; The Screaming Skulls, **Boneheads** mixes mystical story elements with factual-style newspaper and magazine clippings as it tells of lead singer Frankie Watts leaving the Skulls to go solo and becoming involved in a primitive magic cult.

This culminates in his addiction to ectocaine, a drug which begins to make Frankie's body invisible.

The writer, artist, designer of the title is **Mr X's** Dean Motter, aided by co-writer Lou Stathus.

Brooklyn Dreams

96 pages; Four 6 x 9" b&w issues; winter '92 launch; Mike DeMatteis & Glenn Barr

A tale of growing up dysfunctional in the wilds of 1970s Brooklyn, this title follows a man's attempt to sift through past memories in search of life's truth.

At times touching, outrageous or funny, **Brooklyn Dreams** follows the tradition of such auto-biographical creators as Woody Allen and Harvey Pekar.

Fast Forward

64 pages; 3 prestige format monthly issues; winter '92 launch; for mature readers; various

The 17 stories are divided into three issues under the headings *Phobias, Family* and *Storytellers* and handled by a range of creators including Morrison, McKean, Motter, Stelfreeze and Kieth.

With a variety of storytelling techniques and graphic styles, the title represents the ability of comics to speak to adults as well as educate the non-comics literate on the pleasures of the industry.

Gregory II

64 pages; prestige format b&w one-shot; winter '92 launch; Marc Hempel

Piranha's popular rodent returns, as Herman Vermin attempts suicide and Gregory survives yet another attempt at rehabilitation.

The Hip Hop Papers

160 pages; 6 x 9" b&w one-shot; winter '92 launch; Chris Pape

The work of graffiti artist Chris ("Freedom") Pape has appeared in NY's Museum of Modern Art as well as subway trains. Now his work reaches a wider audience through the comics medium.

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Next issue: DC's plans for 1993 are previewed; including **Kamandi**, the delayed **Golden Age**, the ongoing **Sandman Mystery Theatre**, the 3-issue mini-series starring Sandman's big sister **Death**, the new **Shazam** hardback, John Bolton on **Man-Bat**, plus **Nightwing, Justice League Task Force,** Steve Dillon on **Atom** and many more. ●

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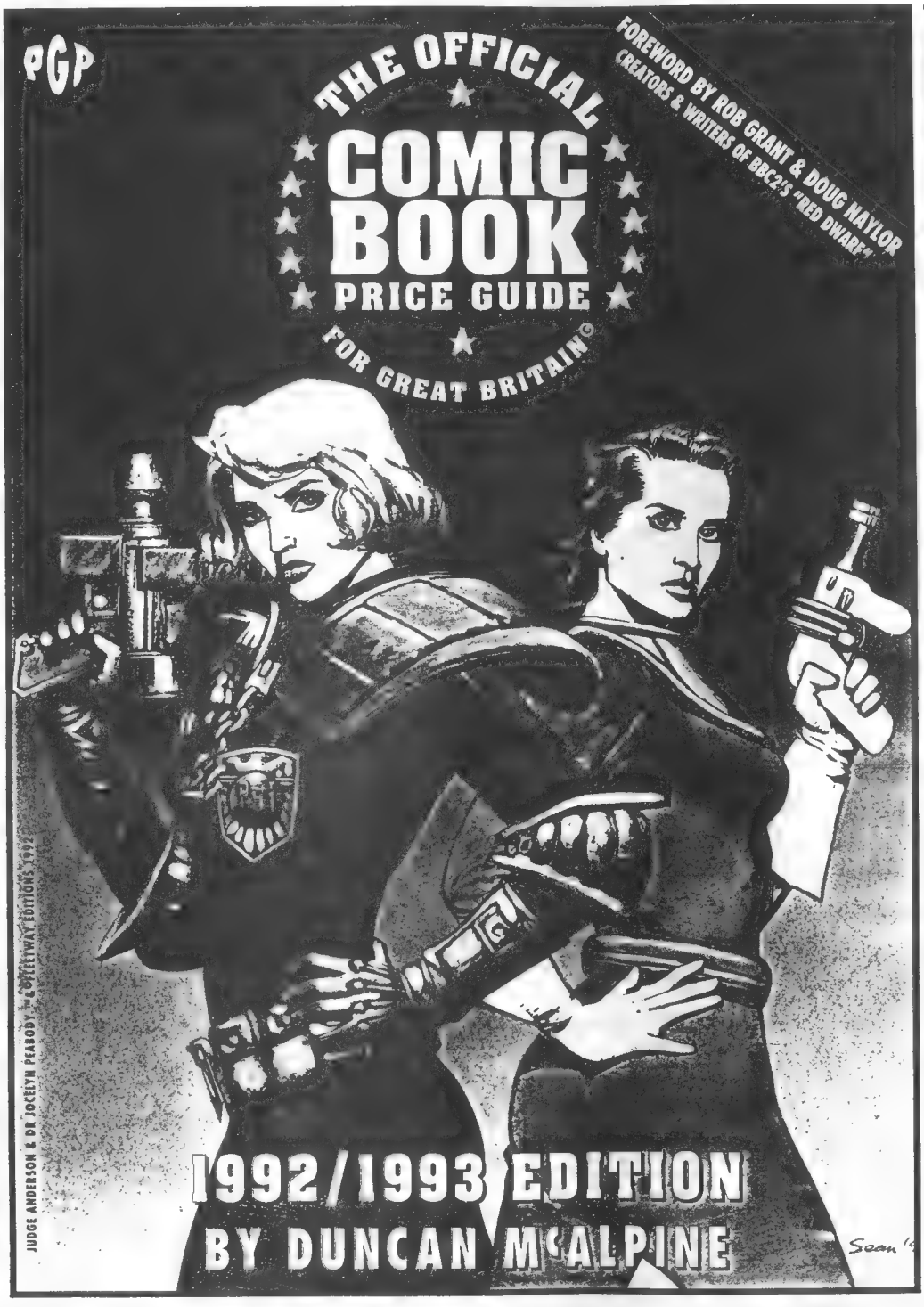
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DISTRIBUTION

The direct sale market of comics specialist shops was created because of the uncertainty connected with obtaining comics from regular news trade outlets.

There are now estimated to be in excess of 3,500 such comics shops in America and a rapidly-growing 200+ in Britain (see Retail Index elsewhere this issue for major UK shops). This dedicated market has resulted in the expansion of the medium's content, and the majority of American comics are now published expressly for comic shop sale.

In Britain, where direct sale copies of Marvel and DC comics are more expensive than news trade copies because of the costs in air-freighting copies from America, readers often don't know whether to wait, or if news trade copies will be imported. This column details the latest information in both news trade and in direct sale distribution.

THERE ARE four distributors of American comics into Britain, two for the news trade and two for the direct sale market.

News trade: Comag (Marvel)

Comag, Britain's biggest magazine distributor, handles a limited number of Marvel titles on behalf of the American publisher.

The following are nationally distributed, and available at most general newsagents on May 20:

Avengers 347* (95p)
Avengers West Coast 82 (70p)
Captain America 400* (£1.10)
Daredevil 304 (70p)
Fantastic Four 364 (70p)
Guardians of Galaxy 24 (70p)
Incredible Hulk 393* (£1.35)
Iron Man 280 (70p)
Marvel Comics 101 & 102 (80p)
New Warriors 23 (70p)
Punisher 63 (70p)
Svge Sword Conan 198 (£1.10)
Silver Surfer 65 (70p)
Thor 447 (70p)
Uncanny X-Men 288 (70p)
X-Factor 78 (70p)
X-Force 10 (70p)
X-Men 8 (70p)

Those titles marked (*) will not be available at all major outlets, but will be found at independent newsagents. Major omissions from the American publishing line continue to be the higher priced titles including **Wolverine** and **Excalibur**.

It is believed that with the Marvel UK **Complete Spider-Man** reprint anthology ceasing publication, regular newsagent distribution of the four Spider-Man US titles may soon resume.

Comag will distribute Marvel's special anniversary issues of normal distributed titles, but having higher cover prices will not be available through all regular outlets. These include:

Avengers 350 (August, 95p)
Guardians Galaxy 25 (June, £1.35)
Incredible Hulk 400 (Dec, £1.10)
New Warriors 25 (July, 95p)
Thor 450 (August, £1.10)

News trade: Moore Harness (DC)

Unlike Comag, who bring in little other than the regular (70p) comics, Moore Harness imports and distributes the entire range of DC comics except where prevented by licensing arrangements.

For this reason most months all titles including expensive formats can be found in newsagents.

Major chains, such as Smiths and Menzies, take only a limited number of the standard format titles, so you will have to search around independent newsagents for such titles as **Batman v Predator, Green Arrow, Animal Man** and such.

Though ordered, Moore-Harness has not received its shipment of the ten DC Classics Silver Age reprint titles. Late distribution is anticipated.

As well as regular continuing titles, Moore Harness will be distributing the following in July:

Arion The Immortal (£1.00)
Shadow of the Bat (£1.00)
Eclipso: Darkness Within (£1.50)
Guy Gardner Reborn (£3.00)
Man of Steel Annual 1 (£1.50)
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Penguin Triumphant (£3.00)
Legion Annual 3 (£2.00)

Direct sale: Diamond Distributors

Celebrating ten years as an innovative US-based distributor, Diamond now offers instant co-op credit to its customers advertising Marvel or DC product.

The company has also recently introduced an Order Index Guide to help shops base title order levels on established sales ratios from its 3,000+ customers worldwide.

Interested retailers should contact Diamond's UK office direct for further details on both projects.

Direct sale: Titan Distributors

Following negotiations, it has been confirmed that Titan will be importing the American-printed expanded versions of Marvel UK's *Genesis 92* line currently appearing in the anthology fortnightly **Overkill** (55p).

Release dates of the American editions which feature mainstream US guest stars (see below) will be staggered a month after the guest-less shortened versions of the stories appear in **Overkill**, to allow the anthology time to establish itself.

The following £1.20 retail US titles will be poly-bagged, with the bags labelled to ensure the public understands they are Marvel UK productions for the US market:

Warheads 1 (g/Wolverine; May)
Motormouth 1 (g/Nick Fury; May)
Pendragon II 1 (g/Iron Man; June)
Hell's Angel 1 (June)
Digitek 1 (July)

Titan's next trade (only) Open Day is set for Sunday June 21, with guest speakers from major publishers announcing new projects.

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MEDIA FILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

The launch campaign for the *Batman Returns* movie will, as DC Editor-in-Chief Jenette Khan recently said, "generate Bat-mania in every corner of the English-speaking world simultaneously".

This is not mere hyperbole, but a marketing and publicity first: *Batman Returns* will be released in the UK, Australia and New Zealand within two weeks of its first showing in America.

With a new *Batman* animated tv series, the release of the *Batman Returns* video at the end of the year, and *Batman Returns* marketing partners McDonalds and Coca Cola Co. signed up, Marvel are going to have to fight hard to get any media attention at all in 1992.

Celluloid comics sell

Dark Horse (who at 6% have the largest share of the US market after Marvel and DC) have as yet no plans to publish a graphic novel adaptation of *Aliens 3*; an extraordinary omission considering the spin-off sales generated by the film series in bookshops. The Grant & C. Taylor + Magyar 3-issue mini-series **Alien III** will go ahead as scheduled (first issue shipping in June), despite the recently-announced postponement of the film's release date due to re-cutting problems.

The delay in the film's appearance points up a noticeable trend in comics adaptations. Where in the past, titles have been published *after* their related films' launches, now it seems that the comic's production comes first. The same strategy is also being pursued by Time-Warner, DC Comics' parent company, with their O'Neil & Erwin + Garcia-Lopez adaptation of the *Batman Returns* sequel, whose June US shipping coincides with the release of the film.

Given that there is a symbiotic relationship between any adaptation and its source it seems that in future comics will serve the same function as other info-tainment vehicles, like Sunday supplements, style magazines, arts pages in newspapers and so on. The relevance of this apparent shift in marketing is that instead of comics being just another source of licensing revenue, they can be used to increase audience figures for the film itself. Whether this is due to the burgeoning commercial growth of the comics business, or symptomatic of the frailty of the film industry is, of course, a moot point.

Knee-jerks and New Flesh

GORY COMIC'S HANDOUT BID SPARKS ROW was the headline which preceded an alleged news story in the **Daily Record** (27.3.92), the Mirror Group Newspapers' Scottish tabloid.

The supposed basis for the outraged tone of Nigel Duncan's prurient, inaccurate story which followed was that the creators of **New Flesh** "an adults-only comic that deals with torture and violence" were to "apply for cash from the GOVERNMENT."

Cash from the government? No, not a new Department of Trade and Industry comics publishing house, but the much-vaunted Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

Used by several comics retailers to support their businesses during the first year, the EAS (for those of you ignorant of the siren wooing of government television advertising) is offered as an alternative to giving people jobs.

But it seems pretty unlikely that Edinburgh-based **New Flesh** creators Andy Pearson and Tom Eglington will need any *Allowance* for *Enterprise*, given their obvious flair for publicity. As if by chance, a copy of the comic was circulated in Edinburgh City Council's chambers, achieving - in publicity terms - a veritable and instant hit .

Tory councillor Moira Knox was quoted in the **Daily Record** and the **Evening News**, saying "It's sordid and sick. There is an evil intelligence behind it. I couldn't believe how anyone could come up with such disgusting ideas". And Councillor Beth Brereton declaimed unequivocally in the **Evening News**, "It's filth and should not be sold in shops. It can only sully Edinburgh's good name", adding that whoever gave permission for the comic to be published using public money should be disciplined.

Now does that mean that the depraved Pearson & Eglington's *parents* should be disciplined - or what? Because their lads are only *applying for* the EAS; mums' and dads' bank accounts were liberated of the print-bill for **New Flesh 1**.

It's a shame that the more censorship-inclined among us - like the two councillors are so unthinking in their responses. By allowing themselves the luxury of this kind of knee-jerk reaction, they have merely caused sales of the "disgusting, filthy" comic to increase. And soon the entire population of Edinburgh - or at least all the dirty-minded and perverse among them - will have their noses buried deep in a copy of **New Flesh**. If Edinburgh is anything like other cities in the UK, that should be enough to cut out the EAS plea.*

Where to get your copy...

The only problem, it would seem, is that the comic isn't actually shocking or outrageous. It's a creatively accomplished, professionally produced horror comic. And it's available from Viscera Publications, on 031 668 2258.

* A spokesperson from the EAS told **Comics International** that there was a possibility **New Flesh** might not qualify because of existing rules within the scheme.

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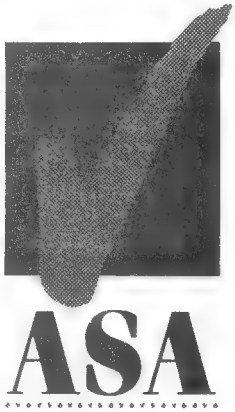

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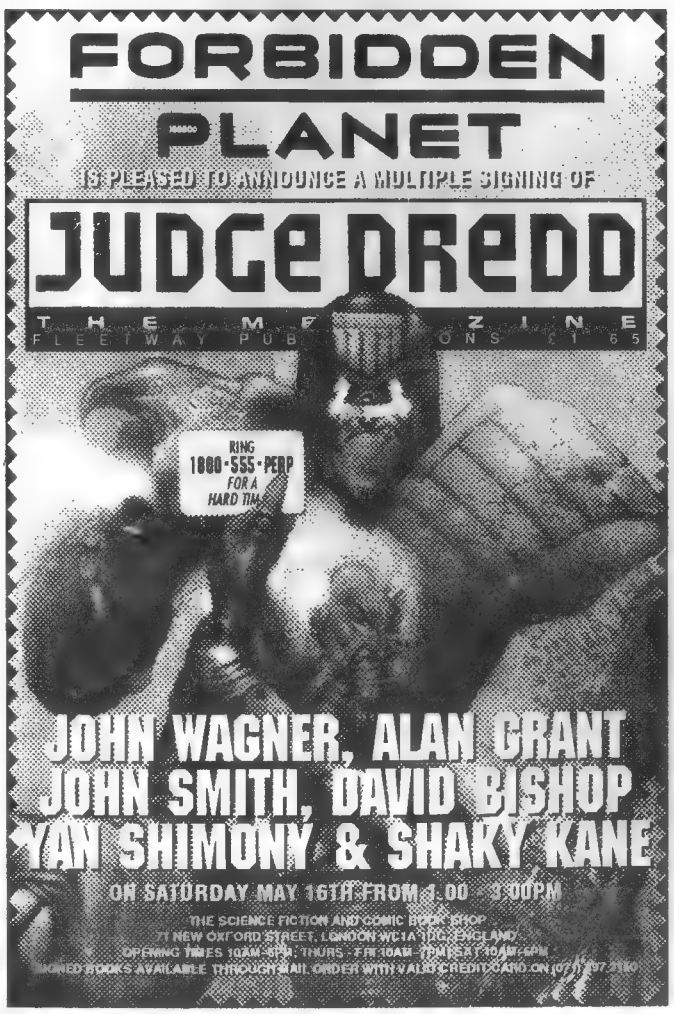
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COMMENT

***Comment** is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry.*

As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, and space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.

The Grading Guide: more problems than solutions

Comment by Laurence Bowkett, Worcester

MAY I OFFER a few observations on the grading and preservation of comics?

The **Overstreet Grading Guide** is now out, and appears to create as many problems as it solves. The main faults seem to be in its inconsistency and vagueness. Most would agree that *Fine (fn)* has been the most abused grade, but Overstreet merely shifts the blame down onto *vg*. Looking at the examples given, *vg* covers a multitude of sins between *fn* (really quite collectable) and *g* (a mess).

The percentages within each grade also seem unusable as there are too few rules given to work out the final figure. Why bother giving more than one example, for instance, 97% *nm*? And many faults are not mentioned at all.

Here, the pointers you have been giving recently in **Comics International** have been much more useful, even if I don't agree with them all. I've come to the conclusion that such fine tuning of percentage points is impossible to implement fairly. For my own purposes, I'll stick to the following rules of thumb:

mint = only in your dreams

nm = the occasional appearance of comics in this condition from the pre-'70s period causes wide smiles and an uncontrollable desire to spend lots of money: a gem

vfn = nice, bright; probably as high as you should set your sights

fn = collectable and honest; been around a bit but well preserved (but then aren't we all?)

vg = the most frequently-offered grade; what collectors prefer to avoid, except when a better copy would set them back more than the national deficit

g = sad, anything with brown pages

f = toilet paper, probably second-hand

p = attractive only to jig-saw enthusiasts and twisted old comic-sniffers.

Surely the worst defect of them all is brown interior pages. There's no point in buying any like this as they are clearly terminal cases and therefore a dreadful investment. Many dealers simply ignore this problem, to their shame. However, the uncritical attitude of UK comics collectors themselves must also be partly to blame.

We seem to be catching up with the US only rather slowly as regards condition and storage. Mylar bags are available, but increasingly expensive. Mylites with acid-free backing-boards seem to me to be the best option when you've got a large number of comics to store.

Yet Mylites are very difficult to get here, and the only backing boards so thin and flimsy as to be almost useless. (And some boards, not acid-free, are an actual danger to valuable comics.) Someone's wasting an opportunity here to aggressively market storage items in this country - like Bill Cole has done in the States, for example.

As many people have written before, grading is in the eye of the beholder. Therefore mail order is an interestingly fallible method of buying comics. Buyers would do much better to save up and travel to some of the dozens of marts and actually look at what's available.

This direct buying cuts out disappointment and also is a great opportunity to haggle. Dealers have always, in my experience, been willing to discuss differences of opinion over grades and alter prices to suit. The recession is an incentive, too - the last few London marts have been pretty empty affairs, with may dealers offering large sale-discounts to make ends meet.

Depressing for them, but as a punter who has had to cope with their vast increase in prices over the last two or three years, my heart does not bleed. And, by the way dealers, a little money spent on re-bagging and -boarding your stock would reap dividends. Many dealers' comics are crushed and bent in ancient boxes and hardly visible through dusty and browning bags. The comic marked "vfn £10" may have been such, once - ten marts ago - but more a "vg £2.50" in reality now.

In a last-ditch attempt to restore my faith in mail order, I combed **Comics International** recently and sent for a dozen or so catalogues, then ordered a few comics from a selection of the advertisers. The range of difference in grading was phenomenal. I ended up having to send some comics back - at my own expense. The worst transgression was a dealer who admitted that he hadn't bothered to take a Golden Age comic out of the bag before he graded it! Listed at *nm*, it was actually *vg* (even he admitted it, it wasn't just me being picky). The dealer shall remain nameless, but perhaps it's time that **Comics International** did a survey of mail-order dealers (as **Collectors' Dream** did on US dealers some years ago), noting grading and pricing fairness, package quality, speed of dispatch, etc.

Finally, I would be interested to hear from anyone who has sent comics to America for restoration: as

the **Overstreet Grading Guide** says, the jury is still out on that one - any opinions? ●

*As Laurence Bowkett may not be the only one interested in comics restoration, **Comics International** invites comment on this subject for inclusion in a future issue from any reader who has experienced the results of such.*

Comic Addict confesses

Comment by Max Cole, Market Drayton

BELIEVING all the *Comments* made so far in **Comics International** to have been made by adult comics collectors or shop proprietors, I decided to express *my* views on the comics medium.

I am a fifteen-year-old boy, and started collecting in 1988. Needless to say, I have what I believe is a typically American collection - all the McFarlane **Amazing Spider-Man, Hulk and Spider-Man**, Liefeld's **New Mutants** and **X-Force**, Jim Lee's **Punisher War Journal, Uncanny X-Men** and a few **Punishers**. Some would say that I've got a nice collection, having started at the right time, and others would perhaps disagree about whether that it had been started at the *wrong* time.

My bank account is just recovering from the damage done by *Mutant Genesis*, but only very slowly if I continue to read **Punisher, Wolverine, X-Men, X-Force, Hulk**, etc. Until I started reading **Comics International** I was unaware of the blatant marketing tricks that Marvel was employing. I always thought that all the team-ups and anniversary issues the company did were just an excuse for a good ol' yarn - then realised that in reality they were just an excuse for larger print runs and therefore make more money.

How did this realisation come home to me? Well, I saw that a seven million print figure on one comic does no good to the market, and I found Phil Hall's *Comment* in **Comics International** 19 very interesting on this point. But I don't think that Marvel will stop their million print-run experiments for anyone - even if they did see them through all the dollar signs!

There have been times when I've wished I had been born during the Fifties or Sixties - I could have bought all the early Marvels when they came out! But maybe that wouldn't have been such a good idea, with the Silver Age recession. I can't understand why dealers continue to press for the highest prices (**Captain America Annual** 8: £20, or **New Warriors** 1: £20), some of the prices I have seen have been just preposterous! I understand that some of our market is influenced by America, but I can't see why retailers are trying to sell **Alpha Flight** 106 for £6 when they could easily sell it for £3 and *still* make a profit, instead of leaving it on the shelf to gather dust.

At a certain comics shop in Birmingham the back shelf prices are governed by demand - a comic might start at £1.95 or £2.50 and when someone buys a copy, they replace it and raise the price by 25p or 50p. This, I feel, is a much better method than just slamming a comic in at its highest price, leaving it there and thinking, "Hah! I bought this at the distributor's price and now it's worth £6 and I've got ten more stored out back!"

I think that anyone will buy a comic for £3 or £5, but beyond that they start to ask themselves if it's really worth it. And there has to be something special about a comic for it to command a price of £4 - £5.

I'm dreading Marvel's achievement of 300 comics titles per month. Does this mean that there will be nine different versions of **Punisher**. Or **Spider-Man**? And the worse thing is that I will keep buying them - until my money runs out! ●

The Investment Trap

Comment by Bruce Hawkins, Avalon Comics

I AM somewhat saddened to read yet another letter referring to high prices of comics and greedy dealers.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify what I believe are the reasons why many recent new comics have become scarce and expensive.

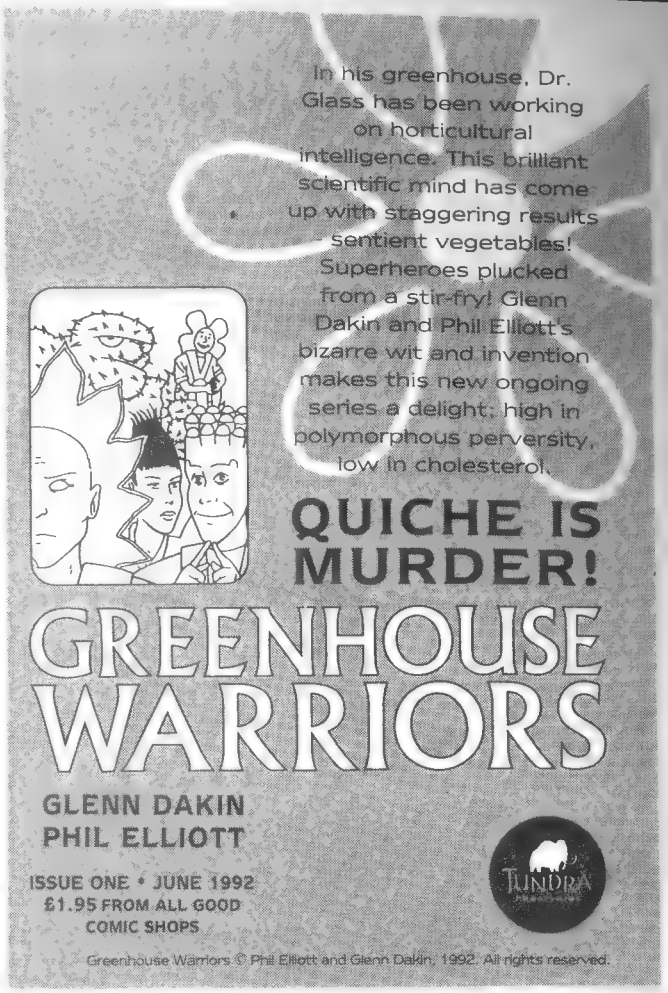
I can't deny that within the comics industry there are "rogue" dealers, who set up for a quick killing. But 99% of retailers are just trying to make a living in a business they love, and many are struggling to survive.

As **Comics International**'s editorial pages have often stated, all import comics are firm sale and are ordered at least 12 weeks before they arrive in this country. Ordering is based on information supplied by the comic publishers, which is obviously biased towards their product. We rarely see sample copies so the quantities we stock are mainly based on guesswork and market experience.

What we can never predict is how many speculators are likely to appear to snap up multiple copies of particular titles. When I first came into the business, the average customer purchased his or her favourite title to read and enjoy. It doesn't seem to be that way any more; investment is the rule of the day: lock it away - after thoroughly inspecting it for any imperfections, of course - and don't open it or the spine will get damaged.

As retailers we can only estimate demand. Print runs are based on advance orders, and in theory there should be enough copies of comics to satisfy everyone. Until, of course, the speculator arrives.

I think it all started with **Silver Surfer** 50. When this comic arrived we knew it was something special, and most retailers increased their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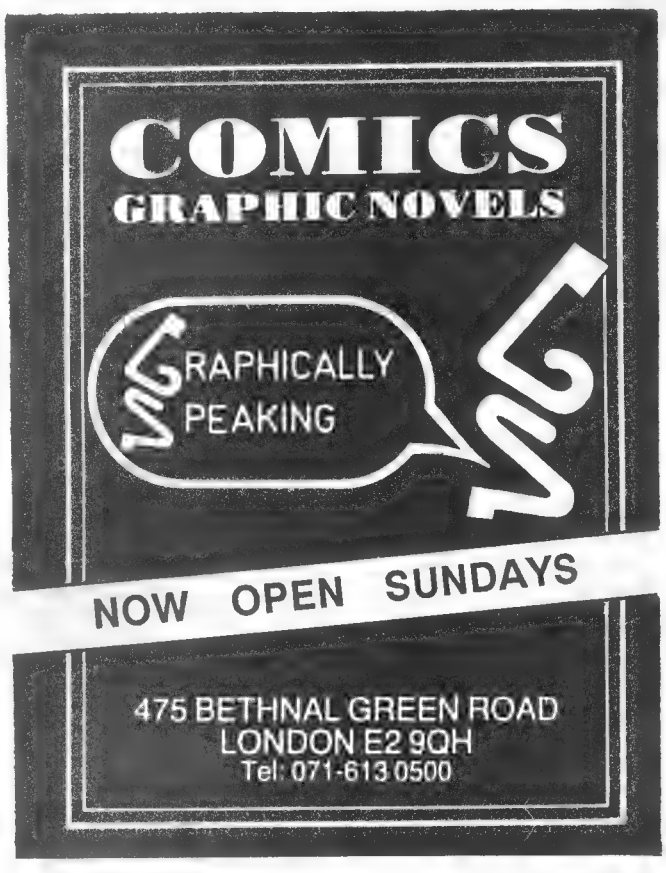

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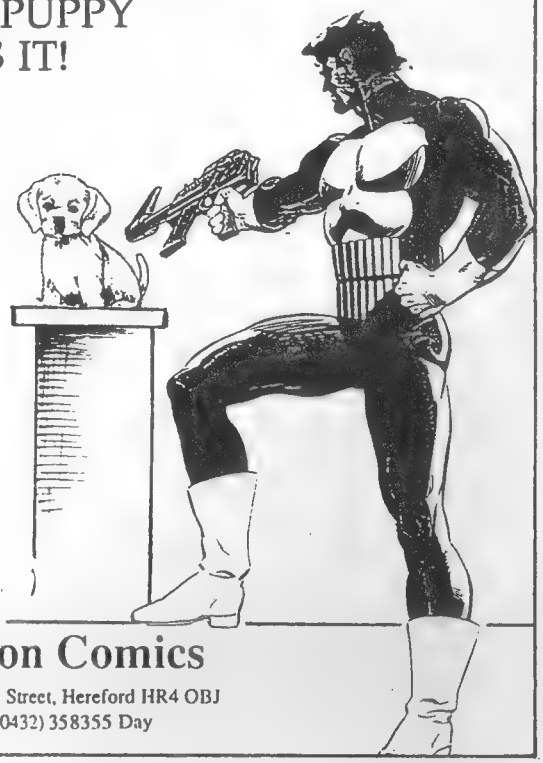

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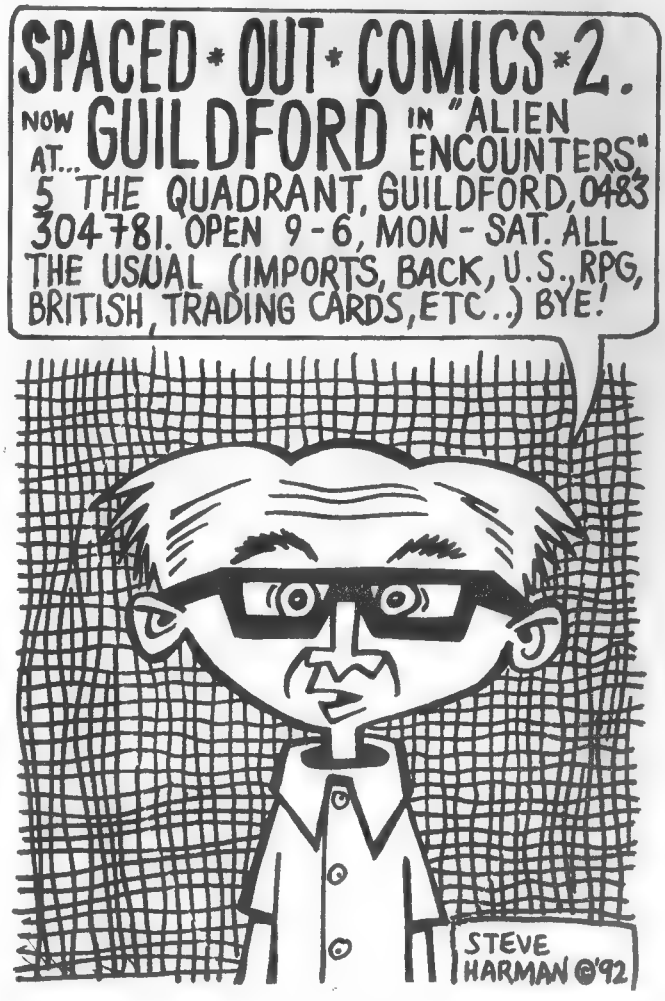
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order accordingly. We had no idea that the first customer would buy ten copies of the comic, the next five, and so on. Within minutes rather than hours all the stock had gone. Distributors sold out immediately, so no back-up supplies existed.

Since then, we have had more of the same **Wolverine** 50, **Daredevil** 300, **Hulk** 393, **Amazing Spider-Man** 361 and 362, etc.

I don't object to selling lots of comics, but I still feel sad, if that's the word, that they are being sold for the wrong reasons.

Due to the speculators, many ordinary comics fans find their local comics shop - in fact most comics shops - have sold out of their favourite title. To satisfy demand, we retailers must try to buy supplies elsewhere at much higher prices, no doubt caused by the shortage. They are now rare items, and the higher prices have to be passed on to the consumer. Once people hear that a comic is in short supply, they feel that they too have to buy ten copies for investment purposes. Therefore, the same comic, which in fact is in plentiful supply vanishes from the market, creating an upwards spiral in price and artificial demand.

It's worth considering that if these very hot, rare comics ever come onto the market in bulk, the investment value will plummet, and you won't be able to give them away. Remember **Amazing Spider-Man** 298, 299 and 300?

Buy your comics to enjoy them and if, after a few years, they become valuable, look on it as a bonus and don't create shortages that aren't merited. It's you who will suffer in the end. The retailer exists to satisfy your demands, not magic them out of thin air.

As a last point, I would also like to mention that I believe that the comics publishers do encourage the speculative market with their special covers, pop-up interiors, free trading cards, second and third prints, etc. One thing I do find hard to believe is that, to the best of my knowledge, **Young Blood** 1 is going to second print - that is, before you've seen the first print. Strange world we live in, don't you think? ●

British (pence) copies worth only half US Guide Values

Comment by Anthony Lee, Romiley, Stockport

How many profiteers flinched reading that title? How many collectors smiled?

I ask because I'd like to know why, on visiting a local Comic Mart, a dealer got out a copy of **Wizard** and a calculator to do a cents/pence conversion from a US guide for a UK pence priced copy of **Amazing Spider-Man 31**.

Should there not be a different pricing system for pence copies (those with 9d, 1/-, 10p, etc printed on the covers of 1960s and 1970s Marvels for UK newsagent distribution)? If so, should it not also be applied to US copies with smudgy Thorpe & Porter UK prices stamped in black circles on covers? These copies are, after all, considered 'foreign editions' in America, and everywhere else in the world come to that.

No American would pay the going rate to buy a T&P stamped or printed UK copy. If buying for American sale, would a UK dealer pay the same for a T&P copy as for a cents copy? So why do UK dealers not consider pricing down their 'pence' copies when selling to us, the British fans? How can these editions be worth the full values listed in US guides?

So why did the dealer convert the guide values in the American **Wizard** magazine into a sterling when what he was selling wasn't a 'real' American edition?

A suggestion: At the next mart you attend, or comic shop you visit, smile at the dealer, and offer half for any British stamped copies. If he says 'no', walk away. If enough of us do it, there will be nowhere left (certainly not America) to sell these comics at full value.

Then collectors can afford to buy the comics they want to complete their collections, instead of profiteers buying for investment.

New collectors, especially younger ones, who at the moment have literally no chance of buying the issues they want, would then be able to afford to start collecting 1960s comics. Giving people a starting off point, with lower prices for pence copies would rekindle interest in back issues and benefit the industry as a whole.

I personally have over 2000 comics in my collection. What are they worth? Nothing, because I'll never sell them. I'm a collector.

If you come to sell your collection (as opposed to your investment portfolio of comics), it's hopefully worth more than when you got started, so you may get your money back. But you had your pleasure from reading them. That alone must have been worth the cover price. Beyond reading, collecting is just a spin-off from the initial enjoyment.

Cents priced comics will always be highly valued by the American market, so that's the highest price you'll have to pay. But pence priced comics are just for the British, so it's up to you and not a price Guide. My concern with all this pence vs cents business is simply because I would like to complete my collection without emptying my bank balance.

It is my hobby, not my business. I do it because I like the fun and nostalgia of rereading stories I first saw in black and white British Marvel editions when I was ten.

However, now I am being asked to pay upwards of £20 each for comics to complete gaps, while I paid only £1 to £2 for the others four or five years ago.

I still think that at half price £10 is a lot, but it's a start. ●

The Comics Boom: a consumer's view

Comment by Nic Holland, North Walsham, Norfolk

I am led to believe there is a fairly heavy worldwide recession happening out there. But in comics, only the British industry seems to have experienced this (cancelling **Crisis, Blast, Toxic,** etc).

The 1991-92 Price Guide mentions that industries like comics do well in times like this, but I think the big American publishers actually take advantage of things.

1991 was the Year of the multiple-format, multiple-cover, multiple-release (then reprint it a few weeks later) multicomic.

Marvel offers X-heroes in various formats and titles, led by Professor X in his Sinclair C5. DC Comics have ever-increasing versions of **Justice League**. In the year of supergroups, they all crossed over with various other titles, so you had to buy them all for several months.

Dark Horse has remained wonderfully independent of marketing gimmicks, but is a little too obsessed with Hollywood for ideas.

But British comics; it's a great pity there seems to be only a small market, and even then mainly for reprints. ●

Image: Marvel to blame

Comment by Andrew Harvey, Leytonstone

DESPITE the quality of the end product, the mass creative defection to Image *must* have hurt Marvel, their production schedules seemed to be last-minute panics even before the exodus. But I'd like to offer what I hope is a different perspective on the matter.

Has it occurred to anyone else that it's more than a coincidence that the initial seven or eight creators at Image have *all* come from Marvel, and not proportionately from the Big Two? Is there not even one disgruntled DC creator looking for the greater freedom of Image?

DC's rights and payments deal must be similar to Marvel's, otherwise everyone would have jumped to the one with the better offer long ago, so that can't be why.

I think they all came from Marvel because of one man, the company's figurehead leader and publisher, Stan Lee.

Back when he used to be writing everything, Stan found he couldn't keep up when the line began to expand. So, before pulling in new writers, he created the "Marvel Style" of writing. This approach meant he only had to produce plot outlines (far quicker than full scripts) and seasoned artists like Ditko, Kirby and the rest would work out page breakdowns, pacing and finally pencil art from his plots, acting as storyteller-artists. Stan would then add the balloon and caption copy around the edges of their artboards.

This somewhat lazy but short-term practical solution has left the company with a nightmare scenario.

First, Stan found he had disgruntled co-creators, who soon realised they were receiving only the artist's credit in print (and, presumably, only the artist's fees). So he lost his top men, Ditko and Kirby. Then the whole thing mushroomed, with full scripts becoming obsolete for Marvel when newly hired writers took up his far easier plot-and-caption-only approach.

This has led to the situation where all Marvel artists *have to be* storytellers, to be able to break down writers' Marvel-style plots (which explains why so many of their titles fail to tell a story very well in pictures). But it doesn't take long for these artists to realise that they are often having a greater input into the actual story than the writer. The Marvel "writer", once he has a story idea, spends far less than a day plotting, whereas the "artist" has the job of breaking a typed (or phoned) synopsis into page by page layouts, then frame by frame breakdowns so he can get on with his job of actually pencilling. Naturally, he spots mistakes or has better ideas as he spends so much longer working on the job, and often discusses them with the writer. If he blindly follows the plot, or is new to the book, you end up with the kind of loopholes and unresolved sub-plots that dominated in **X-Men** for so long.

So, it's hardly surprising that artists begin to resent Marvel "writers", and, based on their input, believed they could do better, and pushed their editors into letting them become one-man writer-artists (you need a list?).

Having no need for outside liaison, and often resenting interference, the next one to go is the editor, who is basically ignored, except to do production work and chase cheques.

End product: often inexperienced in-house staff fulfilling a production role, and one man writer-artists wanting copyright on their own ideas. Doing it all themselves, they have a larger reason (ie 100% stake) in owning copyright. Hence the mass-exodus from Marvel to Image, where there seem to be no editors and certainly no hanger-on writers. Whereas at DC they still believe in writers (and even a few real editors).

Hence, Stan's reliance on artist-storytellers led to this current fiasco, and terrible comics, end of theory. ●

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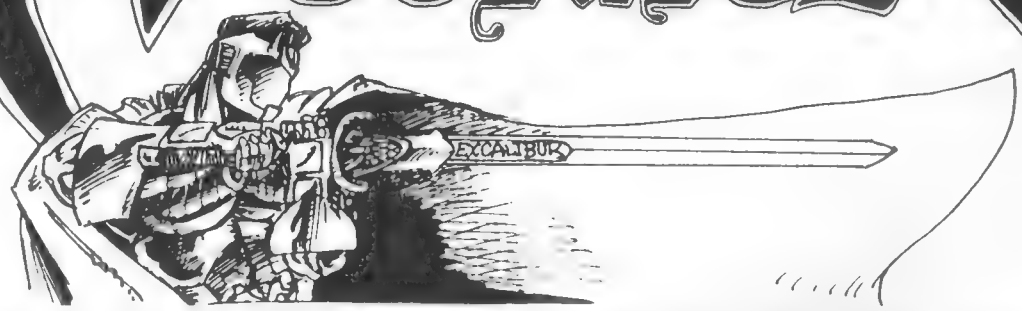

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Key to abbreviations used:
1 & 2 + 3 = Writer & penciller + inker
sqbd *= perfect bound; squared spine; without staples*
RO *= Ronalds print, good white paper*
b&w *= black & white content*
hbk *= hardback (book) edition*
tpbk *= trade paperback, squarebound comicbook sized*
Xpg *= X number of interior pages*
V *= violence; N = nudity; S = sex*

SHIPPING:
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All 32pg colour titles unless stated

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

<> **Cerebus 159** (Sim & Gerhard) "Mothers & Daughters, Part 9" Cirin is morbidly preoccupied with Roachland's potential to undermine her domination of lest, while Cerebus continues his voyage of self-discovery - and his chess-game with Suenteus Po. b&w $2.25

<> **Cerebus: 153** (2nd print; Sim & Gerhard) "Mothers & Daughters, Part 3" b&w $2.25

<> **Cerebus: Church & State** (Trade paperback; Sim & Gerhard) Fourth reprint of **Cerebus 81-111**, featuring the Cerebus/Flaming Carrot cross-over. b&w 620pg $30.00

AC COMICS

<> **Femforce 50** (Black & Heike) In *Countdown to Victory* Ms Victory and Rad go head-to-head for the sake of the soul of Joan Wayne. Includes flexi-disc recording of Femforce theme *Something Special* by The Keys & latest news on *Femforce* movie. $2.75

<> **Jungle Girls 8** (Anthology; Webb, Whitman and Lubbers) Reprint: *Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, Ann and Her Mate* and *Wild Girl of the Congo*. b&w 36pg $2.95

<> **Lady Crime 1** (Powell) Reprint of Powell's '40s creation, with the debut of the female psychopath in *Murder for Pennies*, followed by *The Aristocrat of Crime* and *The Underground to Oblivion*. b&w 36pg $2.75

<> **Redmask 2** (Bolle) Reprint of Frank Bolle's 1950s Western hero, the first of his simulated 3-D effect stories, created in the wake of the 3-D movie explosion. b&w $2.75

<> **Redmask 3** (Bolle) Collecting three stories, with back-up strip by Ayers. b&w $2.75

ADVENTURE

<> **Alien Nation: The Lost Episode 1** (Spangler & Pallot) Published with the aim of satisfying addicts of the TV series, which was cancelled without concluding an important story-line. Uses the original 20th Century Fox screenplay as a framework for the script. Photo-cover. 48pg $4.95

<> **Cartoon Confidential** (Korkis & Crawley) Second printing of a history of animation. Introduction by William (Hanna-Barbera) Hanna. b&w $14.95

<> **Dawn of the Re-Animator 4** (of 4; Spangler & Malaga) Metler intends to stop at nothing to prevent West getting hold of the re-animation serum that Gruber is using in an attempt to escape from the zombie village. b&w $2.50

<> **Evil Ernie 1** (Pulido & S. Hughes) Second printing, with additional 8-page story, of **Evil Ernie**. Cover: Hughes. b&w $2.50

<> **Roger Wilco 3** (of 3; O' Connor & Walls) Whilst trying to infiltrate the crew of the Sarien battleship that has destroyed his craft, Roger discovers (to his dismay) that his autocratic boss Col. Bodge is still alive. $2.50

<> **Rust 2** (S. Miller & Hester + Parks) Rust's only hope for a cure to the toxic virus he's contracted is to demand - with menaces - a cure from the Marlon Labs. $2.95

<> **Strange Sports Stories 2** (Marshall & Byrd + McCorkindale) Sport meets *The Twilight Zone* with a selection of three macabre incidents from the Museum of Sports History, Trivia and Oddity. b&w $2.50

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<> **Zen, Intergalactic Ninja Vol. 2 #1** (Stern & Andru + Esposito) With exclusive free poster by Jim Fern. $1.25

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<> **Catchpenny Comics 1** (Iconografix; various) Suspense anthology, includes: *The Scratch Merchants* (Austen); *Anna and Evan* (Lutes); *Lucky Rock* (Austen) and *The Car* (Nora & Lutes). Mature readers. $3.50

<> **Dante Primer** (Tome; Joe Lee) Lee's version of Dante's **Inferno**. b&w $2.50

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<> **Human Head Comics 2** (Iconografix; Sendelbach and Dickinson) Horror anthology. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Markham 1** (Gauntlet; Stamatiadis) Australian manga-style S-F/action. Markham, a royal bodyguard, finds himself dimensionally displaced, in a land where nightmares come true... b&w $2.50

<> **Peasant of the Danube** (Tome) Further collection of La Fontaine fables, with illustrations by Gustave Dore. b&w $2.95

<> **Planet 29 #3** (Iconografix; Atkinson) Rescheduled: Biff blunders from voodoo therapy to the Holo Psychiatrist, searching for a cure to his post-favourite-tv show-cancellation angst. Mature readers. $2.50

<> **The Scary Book 2** (Caliber; Williams & Willhite + Schaefer) Crimson, a girl who's serving time in Hell for vanity, recruits a p.i. to aid her in her search for a book of spells on Earth. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Shadowtown 1** (Iconografix; Anthony) Rescheduled: Open apartheid is at last declared in the US, with New Africa (the Shadowland of the title) established for African Americans in the south-eastern states. Poverty and oppression by the government in the form of the Black Fist Guard are taking their toll, and civil unrest threatens... $2.50

<> **The Sleep of Reason** (Tome) From Francisco Goya's *Los Caprichos*. b&w 48pg $3.50

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COMICO

<> **Elementals 26** (Herman & Leeke + Trais) Rescheduled: Morningstar, blaming Thor in part for the apparent death of Monolith, sets fire to the forest of Asgard. Fathom is captured by Holocaust while saving were-dolphin Walker, and her rescue introduces the origin of Strike Force America (serialised in **Elementals** 26-37, to be collected in **Strike Force America 1**). $2.50

<> **Jaguar Stories 2** (Seagle & Allred) Rescheduled: Kyle, newly released from goal finds his best friend dead and his life threatened. Mature readers. b&w 32pg $1.95

<> **Monolith** (trade ppbk; Bard) Reprints **Monolith** 4-issue mini-series. 128pg $12.95

<> **Strike Force America 3** (DeVries & Clark) Two packs of trolls dressed as bikers and gangsters run rampant in the Comico universe, prompting Strike Force America to sally forth from Nacht Island in order to pursue them. Cover: Hugh Haynes. $2.50

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<> **Megalith 11** (Stone & Netzer) Rescheduled: In part two of *Megalith: The Movie* sees Megalith continuing his struggle with the ubiquitous alien conspiracy. $2.50

<> **Ms Mystic Vol. 2 #1** (Stone & Turner + Adams) Revitalised and regular new series, with Dwayne (**Cage**) Turner on pencils and Neal Adams inking. $2.50

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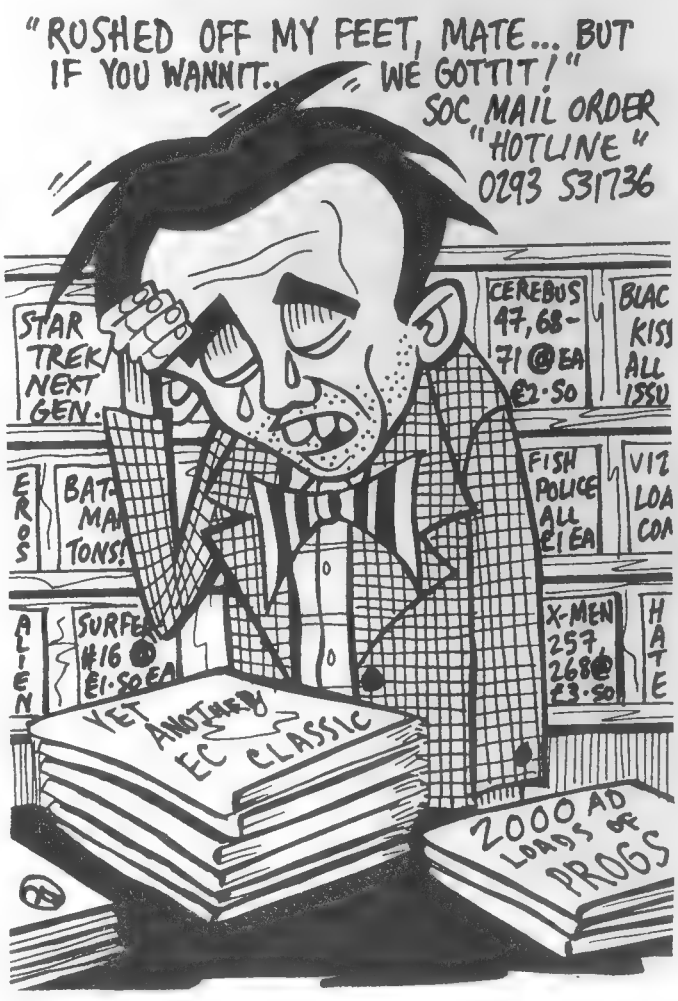
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<> **Creepy 2** (David, Doran, Sutton, Infantino, Shaw, Busiek, Cockrum) A demonic baby and a corpse that won't lie down are Cousin Eerie's little jokes, while Uncle Creepy's machinations keep his guests on their toes. Bi-monthly. Sqbd. b&w 48pg $3.95

<> **Dark Horse Presents 63** Featuring: *Marie Dakar* (Moebius); *The Creep* (Arcudi & Eaglesham) and *Abandonment Games* (Wheeler & Hoffman). b&w $2.25

<> **Eerie: Eternal Terrors** (Trade paperback; Harris imprint; anthology; Ditko, Adams, Colan, Severin, Jones, Wood) Reprinted collection from **Eerie** horror magazine. cover: Brereton. b&w 148pg $12.95

<> **Eyeball Kid 3** (of 3; Campbell & Hillyer) Eyeball Kid steams into the Stygian Leech to win Zeus' thunderbolt, and follows up with a determined pursuit of craven capitalists and aspiring world-dominators, the Telchines Bros. Cover: Campbell. Mature readers. b&w $2.25

<> **Indiana Jones & the Fate of Atlantis** (Trade paperback; Messner-Loebs & Barry + Kesel) Collects the first Dark Horse **Indiana Jones** series. Cover: Dorman. 112pg $13.95

<> **James Bond 007: Serpent's Tooth 1** (of3; Prestige format; Moench & Gulacy) Bond bumps into dinosaurs in South Africa while on a mission to recover a stolen nuclear arsenal. Mature readers. $4.95

<> **Next Men 5** (Byrne) Introducing the newly made Senator Hilltop, an ambitious ex-cop, and revealing the identity of Murcheson's Control. Meanwhile, there are subterranean rumblings from political contingents in Washington that seem to have a bearing on the new mutants' future. $2.50

<> **Robocop vs Terminator 2** (of 4; Miller & Simonson) Robocop comes to the realisation that he will have to sacrifice his own life in order to prevent the establishment of absolute control by the Terminators. Cover: Simonson. 32pg $2.50

<> **Robocop 3 #1** (Grant & H. Nguyen + A. Nichols) Adaptation of the *Robocop 3* screenplay. Detroit is in turmoil, with homeless citizens rebelling against the OCP plan to erase the old city and replace it with its Delta City project. And Robocop's in the OCP's sights when he appears to be backing the rebels. 32pg $2.50

<> **Robocop 3 #2** (of 3; Fortnightly; Grant & Nguyen + Nichols) The OCP recruits a powerful agent to undermine Robocop's support of Detroit's rebels. 32pg $2.50

<> **Star Wars: Dark Empire 4** (of 6; T. Veitch & Kennedy) Luke slips deeper into Dark Side-created oblivion while Han and Leia fly from Nar Shaddaa. But the Calamari rebels, however, receive some unsolicited aid..$2.95

<> **The Venus Wars II #1** (Yasuhiko) Internecine war among the Ishtar forces develops in the wake of the ending of the first Venus War b&w 48pg $2.95

<> **The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles 5** (Barry) Undercover as a courier for the Belgian army at Verdun (site of the famous WWI battle) Indiana takes the ultimate risk as he crosses enemy lines during an intelligence-gathering mission. Cover: Barry. $2.50

DC COMICS

SHIPPING MAY 19TH

<> **Eclipso: The Darkness Within #1** (News trade edition; Giffen & Fleming, Sears, Elliot + Pennington) Revitalised relaunch of DC's Sixties villain, to be styled as the "evil god of vengeance", set on the much-trodden road towards world domination. No free gift. Cover: Sears. 64pg $2.50

SHIPPING JUNE 16TH

<> **Batman: The Killing Joke** (Moore & McKean) New printing. 48pg $3.95

<> **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 35** (Kneece & B. Hampton) *Destiny, Part 1* (of 2). Ancient and modern myth meet as Batman joins forces with Viking Prince in a worthy ecological war with Gotham. (RO) $1.75

<> **Batman Returns Movie Adaptation** (Prestige format; O'Neil & Erwin + Garcia-Lopez) Adptn of *Batman Returns* film sequel. The Dark Knight contends with the seemingly omnipotent Penguin, Catwoman reverts to time-honoured temptress form: deception through seduction. 64pg $5.95

<> **Batman Returns Movie Adaptation** (Prestige format; News trade edition; O'Neil & Erwin + Garcia-Lopez) Duplicates the direct market edition with the exception of a different cover. $3.95

<> **The Black Hood 8** (Wheatley & Burchett) Hit Coffee, now controller of the Seaside City mobs, calls in a favour from Black Hood. (RO) $1.25

<> **Deathstroke, the Terminator 13** (Wolfman & Erwin + Blyberg) Deathstroke gets it in the neck this issue (continuing from **Superman** 68) when Superman sicks the CIA on him, and things don't get any better when the female leader of a global criminal firm ties to recruit him. Guest-stars Superman, Aquaman, Green Lantern and the Flash. Originally to be run in **Deathstroke, the Terminator** 12. Deadline-beating fill-in issue. Main serial resumes in #13. Cover: Zeck. (RO) $1.75

<> **Flash 67** (Waid & Collins + Marzan, Jr.) Flash is embroiled with the 64th century psychopathic magician, Abra Kadabra, and matters are complicated further by the appearance of Peregrine, a hi-tech bounty-hunter on Abra Kadabra's trail. (RO) $1.25

<> **Green Lantern 19** (G. Jones & Broderick, Bright + Staton) Celebratory 50th anniversary issue, with '40s Green Lantern creator Marty Nodell pencilling the manifestation and revelations of Alan Scott, witnessed by Hal, Guy and John. Distribution includes 2,000 copies signed by Nodell. 48pg $4.25

<> **Guy Gardner: Reborn 2** (of 3; G. Jones & Staton + Rubenstein) Lobo's undertaken the task of convincing Gardner that he can retain his status without the ring and offers him the chance to prove it. But Gardner, convinced that he needs a weapon of some kind, consults with the Weaponers of Qward, and spoils the future of the corps when he makes an unforgivable mistake...48pg $4.95

<> **Hawkworld 25** (Ostrander & Nolan) *Escape from Thanagar, Part 5* (of 5). Hawkman and Hawkwoman (with new costumes) establish their dominion on Earth, but Shayera is being threatened by the *bogus* Hawkman. Meanwhile Katar goes out on a limb to help the aliens escape from Thanagar. (RO) $1.50

<> **L.E.G.I.O.N. '92 43** (Kitson & R. Smith) In a defensive move against Stealth and co., looking to even the score after an

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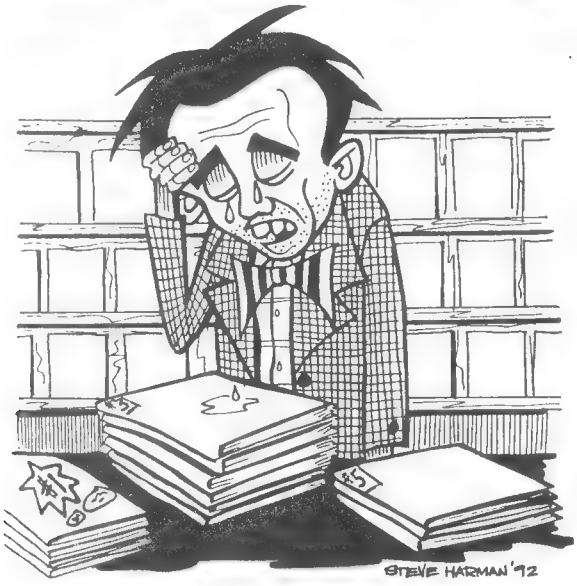

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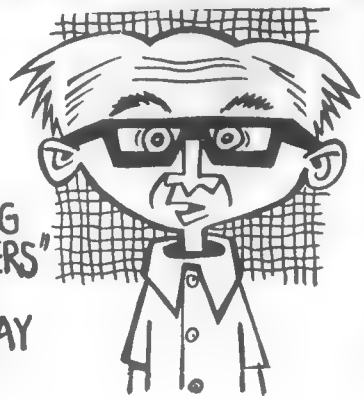

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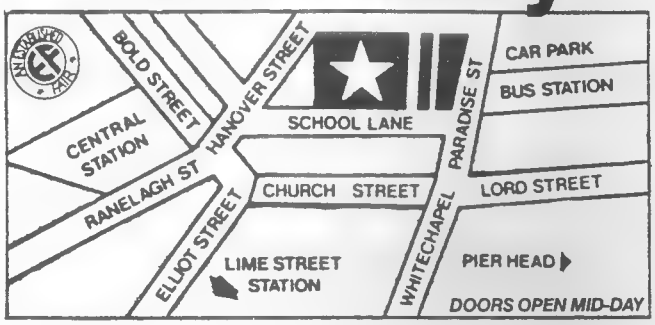

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assassination attempt on Vril Dox's life, the high council releases a terminal virus into the atmosphere. Cover: Brereton. (RO) $1.50

<> **Ronin** (Trade paperback; Miller & Varley) New printing, which collects the six-issue mini-series in which a futuristic samurai and a demon of old are fated to be locked into eternal battle. 302pg $14.95

<> **Shade, the Changing Man 26** (Milligan & Bachalo + Pennington) Lenny's tale, in which she gives her interpretation of her relationship with Shade and Kathy. Cover: Brendan McCarthy. Mature readers. (RO) $1.75

<> **Star Trek 34** (DeVries & Duursama) Kirk, Spock and McCoy are tempted to abandon their mission when they discover a planet where dreams come true. (RO) $1.75

<> **Superman Annual 4** (Vado & Benefiel + Scott) *The Darkness Within.* Lois has to deal with only one Eclipso, while Superman has a whole *village*-full to face off. 64pg (RO) $2.50

<> **Superman: Man of Steel 14** (L. Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) Superman and Tim Drake (Robin) meet for the first time when a vampire preys on the citizens of Metropolis. Continues in **Superman** 70. (RO) $1.25

<> **Viking Glory: The Viking Prince** (Paperback; Reprint; Marrs & B. Hampton) With an introduction by Will Eisner, the DC Silver Age hero returns in a paperback version of previously published hardback book. 128pg $14.95

<> **The Web 12** (Strazewski & McKenna, Nguyen + Wray) When the new Shield and WEB agent Jesus Kennedy investigate the appearance of a UFO in Pennsylvania they find The Gauntlet awaiting them. (RO) $1.25

<> **Wonder Woman 65** (Cavalieri & Cullins + Campanella) Wonder Woman finds herself ensnared in the horrific world of Dr. Psycho. Cover: Bolland. $1.25

SHIPPING JUNE 23rd

<> **Aquaman 9** (S. McLaughlin & Giarrano) *Eco-Wars, Part 1* (of 2) DC Silver Age heroes the Sea Devils are revived when they enter Aquaman's time-space on an eco-mission to destroy off-shore oil-rigs in South America. What they don't count on is the pollution it causes. Aquaman does and sets about saving the wildlife affected while simultaneously quelling the Devils. (RO) $1.25

<> **Batman vs Judge Dredd: Judgment on Gotham** (Wagner & Grant + Bisley) Second printing. 64pg $5.95

<> **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 3** (Grant & Breyfogle) *The Last Arkham, Part 3.* Jeremiah Arkham is overtaken by his inheritance, and Nightwing finds out why Batman is an inmate of the most famous asylum in the world... Cover: Stelfreeze. (RO) $1.50

<> **Batman 483** (Moench & Aparo) *The Ballad of Crash.* A pair of impassioned and implausible lovers threaten to take a lot of people with them in the enactment of their death-pact: only Batman can avert the holocaust. (RO) $1.25

<> **Catwoman: Her Sister's Keeper** (Trade paperback; Newell & Birch + Bair) Collects the four-issue mini-series. Cover: Stelfreeze. 104pg $9.95

<> **The Demon Annual 1** (A. Grant & Phillips, Johnson + Dell) *The Darkness Within*: Jason Blood is quick to comply with magician (it's all in the name) Nihilo's request to be killed by Etrigan. But he's concealing the Witch-boy and Teekl, who in turn conceal one of Eclipso's black diamonds. (RO) 64pg $3.00

<> **The Demon 26** (McDuffie & Semeiks + B. Smith) *America Rules! Part 1* (of 3). In which (holding a mirror to contemporary US politics) the 96-year-old founder of the American Liberty Institute, trying to get a conservative's conservative in the White House inadvertently summons the Demon Etrigan - but then challenges him to run for the presidency anyway! A commentary on the preferred retirement age of American politicians perhaps? (RO) $1.50

<> **Detective Comics 647** (Dixon & Lyle + Hanna) *The Return of the Cluemaster, Part 1* (of 3) Cured and freed, the Cluemaster continues committing unattributable crimes - and nemeses Batman and Robin aren't even there to be confused by it all. (RO) $1.25

<> **The Greatest Superman Stories Ever Told** (various) With eighteen stories from Superman's 50-year career, including *For the Man Who Has Everything* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons and with an introduction by John Byrne. Cover: 336pg $15.95

<> **The Hacker Files 1** (Shiner & Sutton + Buckingham) *Soft War, Part 1* (of 4): Rescheduled: Hacker Jack Marshall and his hackettes are recruited by the government to halt the computer virus that threatens global security. $1.95

<> **Hellblazer 56** (Ennis & Lloyd) Constantine brings his attention to bear on Danny Drake, whose diary reveals some strange and nasty secrets. Cover: Fabry. Mature readers. $1.75

<> **The Jaguar 12** (Messner-Loebs & Wojtkiewicz, Montano + S. Austin) Maria's father sends a bodyguard to protect her from the Jaguar - who he thinks is her aunt Luiza. (RO) $1.25

<> **Justice League America Annual 6** (Jurgens & Mishkin, Cockrum + Marzan, Jr.) *The Darkness Within*: With Wonder Woman guest-starring - as the JLA discover the reason for Eclipso's re-appearance and enter into a headlong battle with her and strive to save New York, now threatened by Maxima. (RO) 64pg $2.50

<> **Justice League America 65** (Jurgens & Burchett) Almerac is the prize offered in a confrontation between Starbreaker and Maxima - but the latter has the JLA on her side... (RO) $1.25

<> **Legion of Super-Heroes: The Great Darkness Saga** (Trade paperback; Levitz, Giffen & Broderick + Mahlstedt) Collects the *Great Darkness Saga* serialised in **Legion of Super-Heroes** 290-294 and the **Legion of Super-Heroes Annual** 2. Includes free poster portraying entire team. 192pg $17.95

<> **Legion of Super-Heroes 32** (Giffen, T. & M. Bierbaum, Pearson + Story) *The Terra Mosaic.* The Dominators are having it all their own way this issue, with the Legion SUBS subdued and significant numbers of the Legion proper killed in defensive action. (RO) $1.75

<> **New Teen Titans: The Judas Contract** (Trade paperback; Wolfman & Perez, Tanghal, Giordano + DeCarlo) Collects *The Judas Contract* story from **New Teen Titans** 39-44 and the **New Teen Titans Annual** 3. cover: Perez. 192pg $14.95

<> **The New Titans 89** (Wolfman & Grummett + Vey) Troia's life is threatened by impending childbirth and the Teen Titans' continuing campaign; Baby Wildebeeste is exposed as a traitor. Story-line previously scheduled for **New Titans** 88. (RO) $1.75

<> **Sandman 40** (Gaiman & Thompson) *Convergences, Story 3; The Parliament of Rooks.* Lyta Hall's toddler meets Cain, Abel. Matthew and Gregory in the Dreaming. Cover: McKean. Mature readers. (RO) $1.50

<> **Star Trek: The Next Generation 35** (Weinstein & Whigham + Starr) *The Tabukan Syndrome, Part 1* (of 6). First of the six-part story-line of Sulu's debut as Captain of the *Excelsior*, detailed to dismantle the weapons stockpiles on Tabuk III and IV before they are seized by others. (RO) $1.75

<> **Superman 70** (Jurgens & Krause + K. Williams) Continues from **Superman: The Man of Steel** 14, while Blaze inexplicably returns to Metropolis, Superman and Robin are sweating blood to stake out the boundaries of the city's vampire problem. (RO) $1.25

SHIPPING JUNE 30th

<> **Adventures of Superman 493** (Ordway & Grummett + Hazlewood) *The Blaze/ Satanus War, Part 1* (of 4) Blaze continues her bid for control of Metropolis. Continues in **Action Comics** 680. (RO) $1.25

<> **Animal Man 50** (T. Veitch & Dillon) 50th issue, and the last for Tom Veitch. Animal Man is forced to use his hidden powers when Antagon's energy blossoms forth, threatening all life-forms on Earth. Cover: Bolland. (RO) 48pg $2.95

<> **Arion, the Immortal 2** (of 6; P. Kupperberg & R. Wilson + Acerno) Garffon captures Mara, Arion's 50,000-year-old peer now manifested as a dog. (RO) $1.50

<> **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 36** (Kneece & B. Hampton) *Destiny, Part 2* (of 2). Batman and the Viking Prince continue their struggle with the Valhalla Corporation, but their future is tied to the past pursuit of magic lodestones. Cover: Hampton. (RO) $1.75

<> **The Black Condor 3** (Augustyn & Morales) *Sky Pirate, Part 2.* Condor's friend Ned Smith is still trying to persuade him to take action against the Sky Pirate. (RO) $1.25

<> **Doom Patrol: Crawling From the Wreckage** (Trade paperback; Morrison & Case + Braithwaite + Hanna + Garzon) Collects **Doom Patrol** 19-25. Cover: Bisley. 192pg $19.95

<> **Flash Annual 5** (Waid & Boldman, Charest + D. Davis) *The Darkness Within.* Flash's Rogues' Gallery meets Eclipso in the wake of a robbery, and Flash is left vulnerable to eclipsed Golden Glider. (RO) 64pg $2.50

<> **Green Arrow Annual 5** (Byam, Von Eeden & Springer) *The Darkness Within.* Green Arrow and Batman team up to deal with Black Canary, now an Eclipso. (RO) 64pg $3.00

<> **Green Lantern 27** (G; Jones & Bright + Tanghal) *Evil Star Rising, Part 2* (of 3). Hal Jordan's power battery is stolen by the Starlings, and he is compelled to confront Evil Star. (RO) $1.25

<> **The Legend of the Shield 14** (Miehm & Blaustein + Miehm) New Shield Michael Barnes races against time to prevent the ignition of a nuclear arsenal. (RO) $1.25

<> **L.E.G.I.O.N. '92 44** (Kitson & R. Smith) While Vril Dox runs himself ragged looking for a cure to the fatal virus released by Yeltsin-Beta's high council, Captain Comet's headache develops sinister side-effects. Cover: Brereton. (RO) $1.50

<> **Lobo's Back 4** (of 4; Giffen, Grant & Bisley) Conclusion: Lobo undergoes another transmutation - this time returning to his original identity, and steams off in a vengeance-driven search for the unpleasantly-named Loo and Feces. (RO) $1.50

<> **Swamp Thing 122** (Collins & Eaton + DeMulder) The Sunderland Corporation commissions assassins to eradicate Swamp Thing, which introduces new player The Needleman. Free posters by Adams and Vess. Cover: Higgins. Mature readers. (RO) $1.75

SHIPPING JULY 7th

<> **Action Comics Annual 4** (Vado & Wosniak + Vancata) *The Darkness Within.* When an entire village is overtaken by Eclipso it seems that Superman's only option is to offer himself in a hostage exchange, thus giving Eclipso dominion over his body. Foreseeing the potential consequences Superman orders the Justice League to terminate him once he is in Eclipso's power. (RO) $2.50

<> **Action Comics 680** (Stern & Guice + Rodier) *The Blaze/Satanus War, Part 2* (of 4) Superman is powerless to prevent the damage to Metropolis as the battle escalates in the streets of the city. Continues in **Superman: The Man of Steel** 15. (RO) $1.25

<> **Batman: Run Riddler Run 3** (of 3; Prestige format; G. Jones & Badger) Donna DeForza and Perfect Securities are on the Riddler's case, and Batman's forced to find him to prevent his death. (RO) 48pg $4.95

<> **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 4** (Grant & Breyfogle) *The Last Arkham, Part 4* (of 4). Mr. Szasz's motivations for killing are revealed and Batman finally agrees to Nightwing's rescue plan. Cover: Stelfreeze. (RO) $1.50

<> **Beautiful Stories for Ugly Children 30** (Piranha imprint; Louapre & Sweetman) *The Dream is Dead...* Krut and Mojo, having lost absolutely everything that made their lives worth living set off on sort of *On the Road Again* binge on a ship full of beer which ends up with them mugged by a teenage gang and left on Earth. Mature readers. Final issue. (RO) b&w 32pg $2.50

<> **Camelot 3000** (Trade paperback; Barr & Bolland) New printing of 12-issue maxi-series. 312pg $14.95

<> **Cool World Movie Adaptation** (Eury & Kupperberg) Cover: Bakshi. 64pg $3.50

<> **The Comet 14** (Waid & West + Albrecht) The Comet tries to come to terms with the revelations about his powers. RO $1.25

<> **Cosmic Odyssey** (Trade paperback; Starlin & Mignola + Garzon) Collected landmark series with Jack Kirby's Fourth World characters, featuring the teaming of Highfather of the New Genesis and Darkseid of the Apokalips in a bid to save the cosmos. With appearances by Superman, Batman, Martian Manhunter, Green Lantern (John Stewart). Cover: Mignola. 200pg $19.95

<> **The Crusaders 4** (Augustyn & Waid, Morales) New Web-sponsored group the Crusaders are observed by the Fly, Jaguar, Comet, Fireball and Shield. (RO) $1.00

<> **Detective Comics 648** (Dixon & Lyle + Hanna) *The Return of the Cluemaster, Part 2* (of 3). The Cluemaster will kill any amount of people to get to the same information sought by Batman and Robin. (RO) $1.25

<> **Doom Patrol 58** (Morrison & Phillips) The Candlemaker creates Armageddon on Earth, while the dead Cliff Steele's mind wanders... Cover: Bisley. Mature readers. (RO) $1.50

<> **The Fly 13** (Strazewski & Parobeck + Fricke) Featuring the introduction of Tremor. (RO) $1.25

<> **Green Arrow 65** (Grell & Hoberg + Nyberg) *The Hunt for the Red Dragon, Part 3* (of 4). Green Arrow and Shado are forced to play a dangerous game of cat and mouse with Quaid, who's got the upper hand. (RO) $1.50

<> **Justice League Europe 41** (G. Jones & Randall + Elliot) The League defend the Earth against an attempted global take-over. Guests: Wonder Woman and Metamorpho (RO) $1.25

<> **Justice Society of America 1** (Strazewski & Parobeck + Machlin) When the New Order - meta-human terrorists appear, the "world's first super-heroes" seem to be the ideal contenders to cut them off at the pass. (RO) $1.25

<> **Prince: Alter Ego** (Piranha imprint; McDuffy & Cowan + K. Williams) Second printing. (RO) 32pg $2.00

<> **Star Trek: Debt of Honour** (Claremont & Hughes + Story) Rescheduled: Revision of Captain Kirk's career up to the present, in which he enters into a secret alliance with the Klingons to deal with an overwhelming threat from his past. Cover: Dorman. (RO) 96pg (RO) $24.95

<> **Star Trek: The Next Generation 36** (Weinstein & Whigham + Starr) *The Tabukan Syndrome, Part 2* (of 6). The Romulans are in plot-hatching mode and the *Excelsior,* threatened with an attack takes evasive action during which McCoy meets an old classmate. (RO) $1.75

<> **V For Vendetta** (Trade paperback; Moore & Lloyd) New printing. New cover: Lloyd. Mature readers. 288pg $14.95

<> **Watchmen** (Trade paperback; Moore & Gibbons) New printing of the award-winning series (includes covers). 392pg $16.95

DRAWN & QUARTERLY

<> **Drawn & Quarterly 9** (anthology; Mazzuchelli, Kuper, Cohen, Marti, Dougan, Vellekoop, Gregory, Eichhorn, Giard) Cover: Seth. Mature readers. Magazine format. Part colour. 40pg $3.95

<> **Dirty Plotte 1** (Doucet) Second printing. Adult, N. b&w 24pg $2.50

EC COMICS

<> **Tales from the Crypt 9** (various) colour reprints of **Tales from the Crypt 40** and **Crime Suspenstories 7.** $2.00

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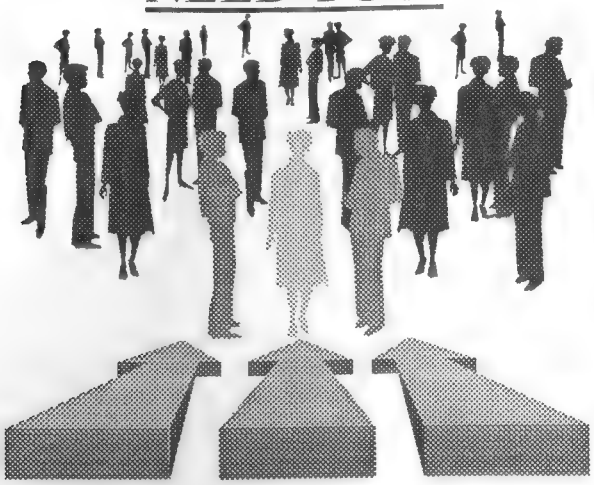

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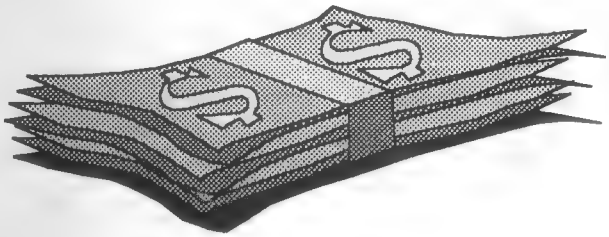

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282	FN-	35.00
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285	FN	35.00
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286	VFN+	49.00
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290	FN+	47.00
294	VFN	36.00
294	FN+	27.50
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2	NM-	1050.00
4	FN+	270.00
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9	VFN	255.00
10	VFN+	285.00
10	VFN	235.00
10	FN-	145.00
11	FN+	110.00
12	VFN-	115.00
12	VG-	42.00
13	VFN-	140.00
13	VG-	52.00
13	G+	37.00
14	NM	660.00
14	VFN-	375.00
14	FN-	295.00
14	VG+	235.00
14	VG-	140.00
15	FN+	120.00
15	FN-	100.00
15	VG+	80.00
16	FN+	88.00
16	FN	79.00
16	VG+	59.00
17	FN-	130.00
17	G+	44.00
18	FN	99.00
19	FN	83.00
19	FN-	65.00
20	VG-	36.00
21	VFN+	94.00
21	VFN-	50.00
21	VG+	31.00
22	VFN-	50.00
23	VFN	150.00
23	FN+	90.00
23	VG+	60.00
23	VG	40.00
23	G+	24.95
24	VG+	28.95
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25	VG+	34.00
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29	FN-	36.00
29	VG+	29.50
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35	NM	68.00
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39	FN+	36.00
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42	FN-	26.50
44	VFN+	37.00
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48	VFN	31.00
49	VFN	31.00
50	VFN-	85.00
50	FN-	67.00
51	VFN+	33.00
51	VFN-	25.95
100	NM-	60.00
129	VFN+	125.00
129	VFN-	98.00
135	VFN	36.00
135	VFN-	35.00
238	NM	26.95

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2	VFN	41.00
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AQUAMAN V1

1	VFN-	92.00
1	VG+	58.00
2	VFN+	51.00
2	VFN-	41.00
2	FN+	39.00
2	FN-	32.00
3	VFN	28.95
4	VFN	28.95
5	NM	60.00
5	VFN-	27.50
9	NM-	26.95
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25	NM-	55.00
25	VFN-	39.00

ATOM

1	VFN-	195.00
2	VFN	69.00
2	FN-	51.00
3	VFN-	42.00
3	VG+	26.95
4	VFN-	31.00
5	NM-	65.00
5	VFN-	31.00
7	FN+	28.95
7	FN	25.95
8	NM-	52.00
13	NM-	38.00
20	NM-	28.50

AVENGERS

2	VFN-	195.00
2	FN+	185.00
3	VFN	100.00
3	VG+	60.00
3	VG-	35.00
4	FN+	240.00
4	FN-	160.00
4	VG-	75.00
5	FN-	62.00
7	FN+	64.00
7	FN-	53.00
7	VG+	42.00
8	VFN+	85.00
8	FN-	53.00
8	VG	28.50
9	VFN	145.00
9	VG+	64.00
10	VFN	71.00
11	VFN+	63.00
11	FN+	47.00
11	FN	42.00
12	VFN+	58.00
12	VFN	48.00
12	FN	25.95
13	VFN-	31.00
13	FN	25.95
14	VFN+	58.00
14	VFN	48.00
14	FN+	28.95
15	NM-	65.00
15	VFN	48.00
17	NM	48.00
17	VFN+	41.00
18	VFN+	41.00
19	VFN	34.00
22	VFN	25.95
93	VFN+	41.00
94	NM-	27.50
100	NM-	49.00
100	VFN+	44.00

BATMAN

1	VFN-	19400.00
4	FN-	1100.00
9	VG+	500.00
18	FN	370.00
20	VG+	275.00
33	FN+	310.00
47	FN-	540.00
49	FN-	280.00
77	FN-	130.00
78	VG+	125.00
79	VG+	105.00
82	FN-	130.00
84	VG	70.00
95	FN+	105.00
107	VG+	49.00
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109	VG-	28.95
119	VFN-	54.00
143	VFN-	31.00
148	VG+	26.95
155	VFN-	46.00
163	FN+	25.95
171	FN-	99.00
171	VG+	79.00
171	VG	53.00
200	VFN+	125.00
200	VFN-	74.00
251	NM	28.50

BATMAN ANNUAL

1	FN-	94.00

BLACKHAWK V1

37	FN-	54.00

BLUE BEETLE, THE G/AGE

13	VG-	25.00

BOY COMMANDOS V1

7	VG+	42.00

BRAVE AND THE BOLD

7	FN-	54.00
9	FN-	54.00
13	FN	43.00
28	FN-	855.00
28	VG+	685.00
30	FN-	240.00
36	VFN+	115.00
42	FN	28.95
43	VFN-	44.00
43	FN+	42.00
43	VG+	27.95
44	VFN	48.00
50	VFN-	31.00
50	FN	25.95
57	VFN-	31.00

CAPTAIN AMERICA

100	VFN	215.00
100	FN+	145.00
100	VG+	80.00
101	VFN-	25.50
102	NM-	32.00
103	NM-	32.00
106	NM-	32.00
107	VFN+	28.50
109	NM-	41.00
109	VFN+	37.00
110	VFN+	40.00
241	VFN+	29.50

CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL

8	NM	28.50

CAPTAIN MARVEL

1	FN+	32.00
1	FN-	26.95

CASPER, FRIENDLY GHOST V2

8	NM	40.00

CHALLENGERS OF UNKNOWN V1

1	FN-	240.00

COMICO PRIMER

2	NM	30.00

CONAN THE BARBARIAN

1	VFN-	67.00

DAREDEVIL

1	NM-	935.00
1	VFN-	495.00
2	G+	31.00
3	VFN-	93.00
3	FN-	74.00
4	FN-	62.00
5	VFN	70.00
5	VG+	27.95
7	FN	38.00
7	VG+	28.95
8	NM-	67.00
10	VFN+	59.00
10	VFN-	31.00
14	VFN	33.00
15	NM	47.00
15	VFN	33.00
16	FN-	24.95
17	NM-	71.00
17	VFN-	38.00
17	FN-	24.95
18	VFN+	31.00
27	NM-	30.00
27	VFN+	26.95

DETECTIVE COMICS

53	VFN-	425.00
61	FN	330.00
78	NM-	600.00
82	NM-	530.00
88	NM-	530.00
111	NM-	435.00
112	VFN+	385.00
123	VFN+	370.00
129	VFN+	370.00
153	VG+	105.00
185	FN	110.00
189	NM-	250.00
192	VFN+	225.00
221	FN	105.00
223	VG+	67.00
224	VG+	67.00
226	VG+	140.00
227	FN	89.00
228	VG+	66.00
234	FN-	56.00
258	FN-	43.00
293	VFN	37.00
298	FN-	37.00
299	NM-	27.50

DICK TRACY HARVEY/DELL

32	NM	50.00

DOOM PATROL V1

86	FN+	24.95
95	NM-	28.95
100	VFN+	32.00

DR. STRANGE V1

169	FN	28.95
169	FN-	26.95

EIGHTY PAGE GIANT

1	VFN	43.00
1	VFN-	41.00
1	FN	34.00
1	FN-	32.00
8	FN	32.00

FANTASTIC FOUR

1	VFN-	2175.00
1	FN+	2075.00
1	VG-	645.00
2	VG+	320.00
2	VG	215.00
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6	VG+	150.00
7	FN	255.00
7	G	53.00
8	VFN-	220.00
8	FN-	140.00
8	VG+	110.00
9	FN-	140.00
10	FN	185.00
10	VG	74.00
10	VG-	65.00
11	VFN	185.00
13	VFN-	120.00
14	VFN+	125.00
16	VFN	87.00
16	VG+	42.00
17	FN	70.00
18	FN+	79.00
18	VG	27.95
19	FN	70.00
19	VG+	42.00
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21	VFN-	48.00
22	VFN	44.00
23	FN	35.00
24	NM-	71.00
24	VFN	44.00
24	FN+	39.00
24	FN-	26.50
25	VFN-	105.00
25	FN+	100.00
26	VFN-	105.00
26	FN-	70.00
27	VFN+	73.00
27	FN-	31.00
28	VFN	66.00
28	FN-	33.00
29	VFN	44.00
30	FN+	33.00
32	FN+	40.00
33	VFN	44.00
33	VFN-	32.00
36	VFN+	40.00
37	NM-	45.00
37	VFN+	40.00
38	VFN+	40.00
38	VFN	33.00
39	VFN	33.00
39	VFN-	32.00
40	NM-	45.00
41	NM	33.00
41	VFN+	28.50
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1	FN-	75.00
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3	FN+	28.95
3	FN	25.95
4	VFN+	26.95
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1	NM-	32.00

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1	NM	51.00
1	NM-	49.00

FLASH V1

107	FN-	86.00
109	VFN-	100.00
110	VFN-	185.00
110	VG+	115.00
111	FN-	48.00
114	VFN	59.00
114	FN-	44.00
115	FN-	32.00
116	FN-	32.00
118	VG+	25.95
120	FN-	32.00
129	NM-	135.00
129	FN+	45.00
129	FN-	37.00
137	VFN-	78.00
137	FN+	74.00
137	FN	66.00
137	VG-	28.95

FLASH V1 ANNUAL

1	FN-	72.00
1	VG+	58.00
1	VG	39.00
1	VG-	34.00

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147	FN-	200.00
456	FN	93.00

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2	NM	210.00
4	NM	210.00
7	NM-	70.00

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1	NM-	1175.00
1	FN+	390.00
1	VG+	260.00
8	FN+	51.00
10	VG+	34.00
12	VFN-	41.00
12	FN	34.00
12	FN-	32.00
12	VG+	25.95
13	VG+	25.95
14	VFN	43.00
14	VG+	25.95
15	FN-	32.00
15	VG+	25.95
16	VFN-	34.00
16	FN-	26.95
17	VFN	36.00
17	VFN-	34.00
17	FN	28.95
17	FN-	26.95
18	VFN	36.00
18	FN	28.95
18	FN-	26.95
19	FN+	32.00
19	FN	28.95
19	FN-	26.95
20	VFN-	34.00
20	FN-	26.95
21	VFN-	31.00
21	FN+	28.95
22	VFN-	31.00
22	FN	25.95
23	VFN-	31.00
23	FN+	28.95
23	FN	25.95
24	VFN-	31.00
24	FN+	28.95
24	FN	25.95
25	VFN	32.00
25	VFN-	31.00
25	FN+	28.95
27	VFN+	48.00
27	FN+	28.95
28	VFN	32.00
28	FN+	28.95
29	VFN-	31.00
29	FN	25.95
30	VFN	32.00
30	VFN-	31.00
30	FN+	28.95
31	VFN+	33.00
32	NM-	37.00
32	VFN+	33.00
33	NM	39.00
34	NM-	37.00
34	VFN+	33.00
35	NM-	37.00
37	VFN+	33.00
38	NM-	37.00
38	VFN+	33.00
39	NM	39.00
40	NM-	200.00
40	VFN-	110.00
40	FN+	105.00
41	NM-	27.50
43	NM-	27.50
45	NM-	34.00
47	NM	28.50
48	NM-	27.50
49	NM-	27.50
50	NM	29.95
59	VFN+	75.00

HAND OF FATE

14	VFN+	29.95

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10	NM	30.00

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1	VG+	62.00
1	VG	41.00
1	VG-	36.00
2	NM-	72.00
2	VFN	36.00
2	FN-	26.95
4	NM-	65.00
4	VFN+	39.00
5	VFN+	29.95
5	VFN	24.95
6	NM-	36.00
11	NM-	25.95
12	NM	26.95
14	NM	26.95
15	NM-	25.95

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143	FN	25.95

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2	FN	230.00
2	VG+	170.00
3	VFN+	385.00
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4	VG+	120.00
4	VG-	69.00
5	VFN+	355.00
5	VG+	120.00
5	VG	79.00
6	NM-	435.00
6	VFN	215.00
102	VFN+	86.00
102	VFN-	68.00
102	VG+	43.00
103	VFN+	29.95
103	VFN	24.95
180	NM-	40.00
181	NM	175.00
181	VFN+	150.00
181	FN	100.00
182	NM-	29.95
340	NM	28.95
340	NM-	27.95
340	VFN+	24.95

IRON MAN

1	VG+	79.00
2	VG+	25.95
3	VFN-	33.00
3	FN+	31.00
3	FN-	26.50
7	NM-	36.00
10	NM-	36.00
55	NM-	58.00
55	VFN-	41.00

IRON MAN AND SUB MARINER

1	VFN-	71.00
1	FN-	56.00
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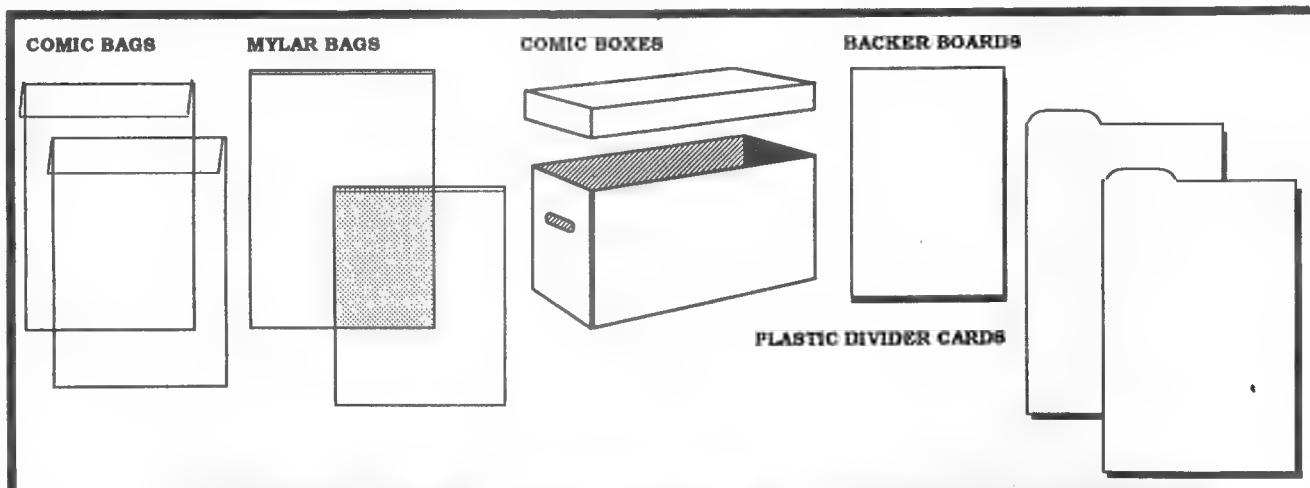

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<> **Invisible People Part 1: Sanctum** (Graphic novel; Will Eisner) Eisner's analysis of the alienation caused by big city life is set in '30s New York. His hero is Pincus Pleatnik, who becomes a none-person when his obituary is mistakenly printed in a local newspaper. Continues in **The Power** and **Mortal Combat**, to be printed later in 1992. b&w 32pg $2.95
<> **Li'l Abner Vol. 13: 1947 Dailies** (Capp) Rescheduled. Hardback and paperback editions. b&w 168pg $16.95/$24.95
<> **Li'l Abner Vol. 14: 1948 Dailies** Rescheduled. Hardback and paperback editions. b&w 168pg $16.95/$24.95
<> **Xenozoic Tales: Cadillacs and Dinosaurs** (Schultz and Stiles) Fourth printing, collecting **Xenozoic Tales** 1-4 and the lead story from **Death Rattle** 8. b&w 136pg$12.95

MALIBU COMICS

<> **The Savage Dragon 1** (of 3; Image imprint; Larsen) New green super-being is recruited to act as one-man SWAT team for the Chicago Police Department, intent on cleaning up the city. Future issues to feature guest appearances by Spawn and characters from **Youngblood**. Includes free colour Larsen poster. $1.95
<> **Spawn 2** (McFarlane; Image imprint) While the New York authorities try to prove their theory that Spawn exists - and work out his motives for vigilantism - he confronts his first villain, the Violator. $1.95
<> **Tarzan the Warrior 4** (of 5; Wheatley & Vokes + Hempel) While Tarzan and crew are off time-travelling, Jackie tries to convince him that Jane had been killed in Africa during the '50s. $2.50

MARVEL COMICS

SHIPPING JUNE 3rd

<> **Avengers 350** (Harras & Epting) The Starjammers, believing that Binary is being held prisoner by the Avengers, stage an impromptu break-in at the Mansion, providing a platform for a confrontation between the two teams. But they aren't the only uninvited guests of the day... 64pg $2.50
<> **Avengers West Coast Annual 7** (Thomas & Ross + Dzon) *Assault on Armor City, Part 2* (of 3). The Avengers West Coast agree to help Iron Man and Darkhawk find Rhodey, but they discover that there is greater evil lurking in the plot than even the infamous Professor Power selling armoured suits to those who will pay the most. Concludes in **Iron Man Annual** 13. $2.25
<> **Avengers West Coast 85** (Thomas & Ross + Dzon) When it comes to slug-fest time between the Avengers West Coast and the Spider Squad, Spider-Woman isn't too sure about whether she wants to be a part of it all, and her refusal to go with the herd does no good at all for team unity. $1.25
<> **Cage 5** (McLaurin & Turner +Ivy) *The Evil and the Cure, Part 1* (of 4) Cage, searching for Anders in the Colorado Desert, stumbles on an experimental laboratory lodged in a prison controlled by the villainous Power-Man - and discovers the subjects for experimentation are the prisoners themselves. (RO) $1.25
<> **Captain America 404** (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) *Man and Wolf, Part 3* (of 6) Wolverine watches as Captain America goes head-to-head with Moonhunter. $1.25
<> **Cops: The Job 3** (of 4; Hama & Jusko, Harris + Palmiotti) Veteran cop Nick and young female rookie Moe near their prey, the Eviscerator, and Moe is forced to confront her own revulsion when dealing with a rapist. Cover: Golden. (RO) $1.25
<> **Daredevil 307** (Chichester & McDaniel + Ivy) *Dead Man's Hand, Part 1* (of 9).Crosses over into **Nomad** and **The Punisher War Journal**. As aspiring gang-lords gather for a conference on the division of the Kingpin's empire in Las Vegas, Nomad finds himself in the firing-line between the Punisher and Daredevil, who bump into each other as they both covertly watch the gangsters' proceedings. Continues in **Nomad** 4. $1.25
<> **Darkhawk 18** (Fingeroth & Manley) Darkhawk enters into the customary fight with a new opponent, Mindwolf, without being aware that he possesses an omnipotent weapon. $1.25
<> **Namor 29** (Byrne & J. Lee) Namor suddenly - and it has to be said - a little belatedly becomes aware of the over-exploitation of sea fish. With appearances by Iron Fist, Namorita and Human Torch. $1.25
<> **New Warriors** (Trade paperback; DeFalco & Nicieza, Frenz & Bagley & Sinnott, Williamson + Mahlstedt.) Collects the NW debut from **Thor** 411-412 and **New Warriors** 1-4. Cover: Bagley. (RI) 128pg $12.95
<> **NFL Superpro 11** (Delbo DeCarlo) $1.25
<> **Nomad 4** (Nicieza & P. Oliffe + McKenna) *Dead Man's Hand, Part 2* (of 9) While in Las Vegas, observing a criminals' convention, government agents arm-twist Nomad by promising to wipe his criminal record if he agrees to assassinate the Slug. Daredevil guests in this story-line which is continued in **Punisher War Journal** 45. (RO) $1.75
<> **The Original Ghost Rider vol. 2 #2** (Friedrich & Ploog) Reprint of 1st Johhny Blaze stories. Cover: Saltares. (RO) $1.75
<> **Punisher 1992 Summer Special Rough Cut** (Mills & McKone + Panosian) De Sade makes a vengeance-driven return, with a plan for the Punisher to star in his very own snuff movie. Cover: Bisley. (RO) $2.50
<> **Punisher 67** (Abnett & Lanning, Braithwaite & Williamson) *Eurohit, Part 4* (of 7). The Punisher chills out in Switzerland, indulging in a chocolate binge and some snow-sport. But with Snakebite and Batroc in pursuit, he won't be relaxing for long. $1.25

Frank Plowright and Hassan Yusuf of **Rusty Staples Limited** wish to thank all the fans, professionals and dealers who attended the **1992 Glasgow Comic Art Convention** in March and made it another enjoyable success. We hope to see everyone back for...

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WANTS LISTS WELCOME

<> **She-Hulk 42** (Byrne) While the She-Hulk rescues the USArcher, Wyatt Wingfoot bites off more than he can chew when he takes on the government. (RO) $1.75

<> **Terror Inc. 2** (Chichester & Zaffino) Demonic action from the pseudonymous Bezeel (actually Lucifer) - and response from Terror, taking the first steps towards a Hell-bound attack. (RO) $1.75

<> **Toxic Crusaders 4** (anthology; Furman & Zick, Yaniger and Barta & Staton) Three polluted stories. $1.25

<> **Uncanny X-Men 291** (Lobdell & Portacio) Genoshan seeks revenge on the X-Men by seizing the role of leader of the Morlocks - but runs across Colossus' brother, who heads him off at the pass. $1.25

<> **Warlock 4** (of 6; Starlin & Leialoha) Reprint. (RO) $2.50

<> **Web of Spider-Man 91** (Mackie & Savuik + Williamson) As he terrorises the criminal families of New York, the enigmatic Silencer's motivations & employers are revealed. $2.95

<> **World Championship Wrestling 5** (Lackey & Wilson + Hudson) The contenders line up for their trials in the steel cage submission match. $1.25

SHIPPING JUNE 9TH

<> **Akira 36** (Otomo, Duffy & Oliff) Rescheduled: (RI) Adult, V. $4.50

<> **Alpha Flight 111** (Furman & Broderick + Patterson) *Infinity War* cross-over. Slugfest feast, with Weapon Omega measuring up Wild Child while Gamma Flight and Omega Flight do pretty much the same sort of thing in another country. (RO) $1.75

<> **Amazing Spider-Man 365** (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) 30th anniversary edition, featuring a hologram cover: the Lizard's post *Venom* fate is determined, and Spider-Man promptly goes into battle with him. Backing story sees Spider-Man's origin, as seen from J. Jonah Jameson's perspective. With additional material by Ditko, Stan Lee and DeFalco plus a free poster featuring Romita Jr. artwork. 80pg $3.95

<> **Barbie 20** (Slate & Wiltshire) Barbie gives Skipper's team a lesson in good sportsmanship. $1.25

<> **Bill & Ted's Excellent Comic Book 9** (Dorkin & M. Severin) Death's defeated but soon replaced by another creature of the same name. $1.25

<> **Captain Planet 11** (of 12; Furman & Hitch, Rimmer & Taylor + Fawcett) Mechanical hitches with a an automatic tree-planter try the Planeteers' ingenuity. $1.25

<> **Ghost Rider 28** (Mackie & A. + J. Kubert) *Rise of the Midnight Sons, Part 1* (of 6). Ghost Rider shows a customary lack of restraint at the sight of Dan Ketch's blood. Meanwhile Johnny Blaze puzzles over a rescue plant for getting Ketch out of Ghost Rider's face... What none of them know is that Lilith, the mother of demons has ascended to Earth... (RO) $2.50

<> **Groo the Wanderer 92** (Aragones and Evanier) Retrogression to childhood is on the agenda for the unsuspecting Groo when he stumbles across the Fountain of Youth. $2.25

<> **Guardians of the Galaxy 27** (Valentino & Montano) *Infinity War* cross-over. Crossed wires between the Guardians and the Inhumans lead to an atmosphere of mounting tension in Four Freedom's Plaza. $1.25

<> **Iron Man Annual 13** (Kaminski & G. Colan + Williamson) *Assault on Armor City, Part 3* (of 3). Iron Man discovers that an old and powerful adversary is behind the manufacture of armour and Stark Enterprises pays a heavy price for its involvement in the scam as the Hunters, Raiders and Seekers dismantle the whole operation. $2.25

<> **Marvel Comics Presents 106** *Wolverine & Nightcrawler Part 8* (of 8; Lobdell & Colan + Williamson); *Ghost Rider and Werewolf by Night, Part 2* (of 6; Cooper & Staniczi + Palmiotti); *The Young Gods Part 8* (of 9; Conway & Fein + Sutton); *Thanos, Part 1* (of 4; Starlin & Alexander, *Infinity War* cross-over). Cover: Kieth $1.50

<> **Marvel Universe Handbook Vol. 5** (Gruenwald & Sanderson and various) Mr. Fear to Quicksilver, all explained in the guide to Marvel characters and product. (RI) $7.95

<> **Pendragon II 2** (Marvel UK imprint; Tomlinson, Abnett & Gascoine + Buylla) Iron Man has to be called in to do something about Tony Stark's robots running amok, and goes slug-to-slug with the MyS-TECH squad, as Union Jack makes a crucial discovery. $1.75

<> **Punisher & Captain America: Blood & Glory 2** (of 3; Chichester & Clark + Janson) The Punisher loves to get himself in seemingly impossible situations, often, it would seem, through sheer bloody-mindedness. This issue's no exception as, nearly dead after his fight with Captain Britain, he insists on getting to the bottom of the drug-running business. But he doesn't anticipate that down there he might find the attorney general. (RI) $5.95

<> **Punisher War Zone 6** (of 6; Dixon & Romita Jr. + Janson) *Ladder of Death, Rung 6.* Since he's already blown his cover the Punisher's got nothing to loose by going hell-for-leather to the Island of Sleeping Sharks. (RO) $1.75

<> **Quasar 37** (Gruenwald & Capullo + Candelario) *Infinity War* cross-over. Eternity and Kaylar are both at risk as the Magus and the Chief Examiner weigh them up for fun potential... $1.25

<> **Savage Sword of Conan 200** (R. Thomas & J. Buscema + Chan) *The Barbarians from Cross Plains* is the celebratory theme for this 300th issue in a tribute to Conan's creator Robert E. Howard. Cover: Jusko. b&w $2.25

<> **Silver Sable 3** (Wright & Butler + Sanders III) Sable uncovers a can of worms as the televangelist story unfolds. $1.25

<> **Silver Surfer 69** (Marz & West + Christopher) *Infinity War* cross-over. A new villain fails to pass muster when he unknowingly hi-jacks Galactus' ship with Novana and the Silver Surfer aboard. Cover: Lim. $1.25

<> **Sleepwalker 15** (Budiansky & Blevins + Manley) The Fantastic Four guest in what literally turns out to be a head-trip - with Reed Richards and the Thought Police travelling through the unconscious Rick's psyche in a last-ditch attempt to save him. $1.25

<> **Spider-Man vs Venom** (Trade paperback; Michelinie & McFarlane) Collects venomous stories from **Amazing Spider-Man** 298-299, 300 and 315-317. New cover: McFarlane. (RI) 112pg $12.95

<> **Wolverine 58** (Chichester & Robertson) Still trying to come to terms with losing Mariko, Wolverine expends some anger on new player Terror, who he meets on his return to Canada. (RO) $1.75

<> **Wonder Man 12** (Jones & Parobeck + Panosian) Wonder Man's powers are seeping out of him - and into supporting characters - as he is forced to deal with the complex yet nebulous Angkor. $1.25

SHIPPING JUNE 16TH

<> **Amazing Spider-Man Annual 26** (Michelinie & McDaniel + K. Williams) *The Hero Killers, Part 1* (of 4). Super-heroes are being disappeared in New York, and a New Jersey village is besieged by a private army. There's a connection between the two, and Spider-Man teams up with the New Warriors to fight the Hero Killers in the process of unearthing what that connection is. Back-up story is the first part of Venom's first solo adventure. Continues in **Spider-Man Annual** 12. Cover: Bagley. $2.25

<> **Avengers 351** (creators not determined)

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<> **Captain America 405** (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) *Man & Wolf, Part 4* (of 6). Werewolf by Night, Wolfsbane, Wolverine, Cable, Dr. Druid and Nightshade guest-star. Fortnightly schedule. $1.25

<> **Conan 259** (R. Thomas & Docherty + Barras) Features Shuma-Gorath, returning after many years' exile from Earth. $1.25

<> **Doctor Who Magazine 187** (Marvel UK; Abnett & Danks + Buyalla) The Doctor and Ace are faced with the ultimate sacrifice to foil the Lom's attack. Back-up story: *The Deadly Assassin.* Magazine format. $4.50 (UK:£2.25)

<> **Epic 3** (of 4; various) 10th anniversary celebration for Epic: *Alien Legion* (Dixon & Braithwaite + Farmer); *Stalkers, Part 3* (of 4; Verheiden & D'Israeli); *Cholly & Flytrap, Part 1* (of 2; Burden & Suydam); *Wild Cards, Part 3* (of 4; Shiner & J. Miller + Rooch). Cover: Braithwaite. Adult, V. $4.95

<> **Excalibur 53** (A. Davis & Rubenstein) Excalibur discovers an underground fantasy land, whose inhabitants' main entertainment seems to consist of disappearing people. (RO) $1.75

<> **GI Joe 127** (Hama & Wildman) Duke and Stalker team up with the original GI Joe in a dangerous meeting with the villainous Cobra Commander. $1.25

<> **Hell's Angel 2** (Marvel UK imprint; Jaye & Senior + C. Smith) Hell's Angel's new powers come into their own when she is sent on an inter-dimensional mission by the Angel of Death. (RO) $1.75

<> **Incredible Hulk 396** (David & Keown + Farmer) The green man joins forces with the Punisher to face off Mr. Frost at the site of the criminals' conference in Las Vegas. $1.25

<> **Marvel Age 114** Details the creation of Ghost Rider's universe, the Marvel Universe trading cards and the new **Cable** mini-series. $1.00

<> **Marvel Tales 264** (S. Lee & Lieber + Demeo) Celebration of **Spider-Man**'s 300th anniversary, with Stan Lee's one-off story about Peter Parker's parents. $1.25

<> **Marvel Universe Handbook Vol. 6** (Gruenwald & Sanderson and various) From Radioactive Man to Stiltman, the background to characters in the Marvel Universe. (RI) 128pg $7.95

<> **Nightbreed 18** (Epic imprint; Wright & Harris + Nelson) The Nightbreed are on the warpath - looking for their own werewolves, who've gone AWOL. Cover: Mercer. (RO) Adult, N, V. $2.25

<> **Punisher: Intruder** (Graphic novel; Baron & Reinhold + Lessman) The Punisher ends up in an aerial dogfight when he avenges the death of an innocent family by taking on the covert paramilitary organisation responsible for the killings. 64pg $9.95

<> **Punisher 68** (Abnett & Lanning, Braithwaite + Williamson) *Eurohit, Part 5* (of 7). The Punisher's European tour continues with a visit to Spain. At this rate, he's going to end up being a gentleman... $1.25

<> **SHIELD 38** (Brown & Sharp, Wyman + Hudson) *Cold War of Nick Fury, Part 3* (of 4). More Nick Fury retrospection, with a mission for him at Brighton Beach, investigating the under-cover operation of a Soviet spy. (RO) $1.75

<> **Spider-Man 25** (Kavanagh & Marrinan) 25th anniversary issue, with Spider-Man in Europe along with a clutch of guest-stars.(RO) $1.75

<> **Thor: Alone Against the Celestials** (DeFalco & Frenz + Breeding) Collects **Thor** 387-389. Cover: Frenz. 64pg $5.95

<> **Warlock and the Infinity Watch 7** (Starlin & Raney + Austin) The Mole Man's succeeded in trapping Warlock, and makes him an offer he can't refuse. (RO) $1.75

<> **What If? 40** (Nocenti & Carr + Rubenstein) *"What if Storm had remained a thief?"* $1.25

<> **X-Factor 81** (David & Stroman + Milgrom) Having only just dispatched Hell's Belles, X-Factor now have to knuckle down to the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. $1.25

<> **X-Men 11** (Jim Lee & Lobdell, Jim Lee & Williams) Allegedly Jim Lee's final contribution to this title, which sees the final confrontation between Longshot and Mojo. (RO) $1.25

SHIPPING JUNE 23rd

<> **Barbie Fashion 20** (Slate & Rausch) Barbie's acting like a princess again, doing fashion shoots for charity - but - outrage! A tabloid newspaper tries to get a scoop. $1.25

<> **Deathlok 6 (Signed Edition)** (Wright & Cowan + Manley) 5,000 copies to be distributed, signed by Denys Cowan. $1.80

<> **Deathlok 14** (McDuffie & Cowan + Manley) *Biohazard Agenda, Part 3* (of 4). As Biohazard and Deathlok steam into each other - threatening the latter's family at the same time - Biohazard is revealed to have once *been* Deathlok. Confused? (RO) $1.75

<> **Fantastic Four 367** (DeFalco & Ryan + Bulanadi) *Infinity War* cross-over. The Fantastic Four suddenly find themselves with a new leader - Reed... $1.25

<> **Infinity Gauntlet 1 - Gold Edition** (Starlin & Perez) 4,000 copies of regular comic, but signed (in gold-coloured ink) by George Perez. Enquire with retailer

<> **Infinity Gauntlet 1 - Platinum Edition** 3,500 copies of regular with certificates signed (in *platinum*-coloured ink) by George Perez. Enquire with retailer

<> **Infinity War 3** (of 6; Starlin & Lim + Milgrom) All-actioner with Galactus' ship exploding in the cosmos, the Four Freedoms Plaza reduced to a pile of rubble and a confrontation - finally - with the Magus when his guard is temporarily down. $2.50

<> **Iron Man 283** (Kaminiski & Hopgood + Wiacek) Discovering that they were suffering under a misapprehension during last issue's fights, the Masters of Silence happily reverse their allegiances and team up with Iron Man for revenge... $1.25

<> **James Bond Jr. 8** (Abnett & Capaldi + Georgiou) Jamsh'sh nephew has a substantial task on hand, to save America from drowning - but still won't ruffle his coiffure. $1.25

<> **Marvel Comics Presents 108** Features *Thanos, Part 2* (of 4; Starlin & Alexander); *Wolverine and Typhoid Mary, Part 1* (of 8; Nocenti & Lightle); *Ghost Rider and Werewolf by Night, Part 3* (of 6; Cooper & Staniczi + Palmiotti); *Young Gods, Part 9* (of 9; Conway & Fein + Sutton). Cover: Kieth. $1.50

<> **Motormouth 3** (Marvel UK imprint; Marks & Frank + C. Smith) MyS-TECH sends Harley Davis to Tokyo, where she's put under manners by the organisation's assassin, Killpower. (RO) $1.75

<> **New Warriors 26** (Nicieza & Robertson + Mahlstedt) With introductory themes for the **Night Thrasher** limited series cropping up throughout, the New Warriors try to prevent Marvel Boy's descent into the Vault, and Rage is officially initiated into the team. $2.50

<> **Silver Surfer 70** (Marz & Christopher) *The Herald War, Part 1.* While the cat's away... Nova betrays Galactus - but in his best interests. But he doesn't agree with her judgement of what those interests are, and promptly sacks her. Silver Surfer is conveniently out of town, and Galactus employs a new sidekick, Morg. $1.25

<> **Spectacular Spider-Man Annual 12** (Michelinie & McDaniel + K. Williams) *The Hero Killers, Part 2* (of 4) Continued story-line from **Amazing Spider-Man Annual** 26, with Spider-Man and the New Warriors going a few rounds with new Super Dreadnoughts. Back-up strip is *Venom, Part 2* (of 3; Michelinie & Lopresti), which continues in **Web of Spider-Man Annual** 8. Cover: Bagley. $2.25

<> **Spectacular Spider-Man 191** (DeMatteis & S. Buscema) The Black Crow runs rings around Spider-Man and also manipulates Puma. $1.25

<> **Thor 450** (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) Thor and Code Blue take in a fight with Heimdall as they continue their search for the authentic Thor. Double gatefold cover. $2.50

<> **Warheads 3** (Marvel UK imprint; Freeman & Geoff Senior) As Tony Stark investigates the Warheads at Nick Fury's request he runs across a bunch of mercenaries - with inevitable results. But they're all unpleasantly surprised by the discover of a crashed spaceship and a clutch of aliens. Cover: Erskine. $1.75

<> **Wolverine 59** (Chichester & Robertson) *Wolverine vs Terror, Part 2* - Wolverine and slugfest partner Terror continue slugging... (RO) $1.75

<> **X-Force 13** (Liefeld & Nicieza) The X-Force team suffers multiple attacks from Deadpool, the Highlords and Cane, who reveals himself as Weapon X. (RO) $1.25

<> **X-Men Classic 74** (Claremont & Smith + Wiacek) Storm and Callisto steam into each other in a fight that precedes Storm's renunciation of killing her opponents. Cover: Hughes. $1.25

SHIPPING JUNE 30th

<> **Conan Saga 65** (Thomas & Buscema + Bulanadi) Conan's latest scam goes sadly amiss, and the hordes of Hades are released against him. Magazine format, b&w Cover: Chiodo. $2.25

<> **Deathlok Annual 1** (Wright & Guice + Palmiotti) New opponent Timestream drags Deathlok through time to a machine-paranoia future, attempting to press-gang him into his human-killing (machine) army. But Deathlok isn't so easily persuaded... $2.50

<> **Dr Strange 44** (Thomas & Isherwood) *Infinity War* cross-over, in which, amongst revelations about the crimson bands, Dr. Strange and Galactus are ambushed by Juggernaut. (RO) $1.75

<> **Ghost Rider & Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance 1** (Mackie & Kubert) *Rise of the Midnight Sons, Part 2* (of 6). Lilith's millennia of imprisonment come to a sudden end when she escapes and single-mindedly sets about terminating the nine who pose a threat to her power. Continues in the new **Midnight Sons** title. (RO) $2.75

<> **Hellraiser 15** Featuring *Of Love, Cats and Curiosity* (Moore & Villagran); *Devil's Brigade, Part 15: The Kold Red* (Saltzgaber & Vosburg); *Devil's Brigade, Part 16: The Cenobite Always Rings Twice* (Chichester & McDuffie + B. Jones) Cover: Ovi Hondru. Adult, V, N. $4.95

<> **Kid 'n' Play 7** (Coye & Frazier + Boyd) Kid learns about the humiliation rituals associated with pledging fraternity. $1.25

<> **Marvel Universe Master Edition 21** (Gruenwald & Pollard + Rubenstein) Loose-leaf format, with histories and abilities of 24 characters including Avalanche, Zeus,Gambit, The Watcher, The Swordsman and Mr. Fantastic. (RO) 48pg $4.50

<> **Moon Knight 41** (Kavanagh & Kwapisz + Palmer) *Infinity War* cross-over: Alicia Masters and Franklin Richards are menaced by Moon Knight's doppelganger, and the destiny of the multiverse hangs by a thread. (RO) $1.75

<> **The 'Nam 71** (De Paul & Harris) One story with two perspectives: American and Vietnamese. (RO) $1.75

<> **Punisher War Journal 45** (Dixon & Hebert) *Dead Man's Hand, Part 3* (of 9): The Punisher determines on eradicating the criminal's convention in Las Vegas, but Daredevil's equally determined to prevent him. Nomad guest-stars, continued in **Daredevil** 408. (RO) $1.75

<> **Web of Spider-Man Annual 8** (Michelinie & McDaniel + K. Williams) *The Hero Killers, Part 3* (of 4). Spider-Man and the New Warriors do battle with an almost uncountable number of foes, and the *Venom* back-up strip concludes. Continued from **Spectacular Spider-Man Annual 12**. Cover: Bagley.$2.25

<> **What The-?! 20** (various) "Infinity Wart" cross-over, Marvel's self-parodying series continues. Cover: Hilary Barta. $1.25

MILLENIUM

<> **Doc Savage: The Devil's Thoughts 1** (of 3; Moore & Stiles + DeLay) The scene opens on New Year's Eve, 1931, and Hanoi Shan plans to use an icon of Shiva (the Destroyer) to revitalise an ancient source of power to achieve global domination - aided by his group of followers who have pledged their loyalty in return for a promise of immortality. Doc Savage's task is to put a stop to Shan's shenanigans. Cover: Tony Harris. $2.50

<> **H P Lovecraft's Cthulhu: The Hounds of Tindalos 2** (of 2; Collins & Heck + Lewis) The Miskatonic team come to the realisation that there is no alternative - other than death (or worse) - to returning the Hounds of Tindalos to their own dimension. 32pg $2.50

MIRAGE STUDIOS

<> **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 48** (Laird & Lawson + K. Aitken) *Shades of Gray, Part 1* (of 2). Eastman and Laird's talent injection brings the title into line for its 50th issue. Cover: Craig Farley. b&w 32pg $2.00

<> **Space Usagi 1** (of 3; Sakai) A descendant of Usagi Yojimbo manipulates feudal wrangles in a futuristic scenario. b&w $2.00

MONSTER COMICS

<> **The Cabinet of Dr Caligari 2** (of 3; Carney & Hoffman) Still convinced that there is more to learn about Alan's death, Francis plans to call Caligari to account, but falters when an unsuspected serial killer is apprehended. b&w 24pg $2.25

<> **Dare 4** (of 4; Morrison & R. Hughes) An astounded Dan Dare discovers the mover behind the *Pie in the Sky* project. 32pg $2.50

<> **Freaks 2** (of 4; Woodring & Lopez) Aerialist Cleopatra soon changes her view of the midget Hans' infatuation when she discovers that he is immensely wealthy. Mature readers. b&w 32pg $2.25

NOW COMICS

<> **The Green Hornet 12** (Dixon & T. Smith + Mowry) First of a three-part third anniversary celebration story, in which the Green Hornet and Kato question the newly-retuned Mishi about her motivations in becoming the Crimson Wasp. Includes free Green Hornet badge. Cover: Sandra Chang. Direct and news trade editions. $2.50

<> **Married: With Children 12** (T Addams & Richmond + Mowry) Spin-off from the tv series. $1.95

<> **Mr Lizard Special 1** (Hartman & Hawkins + Colonna) The return - and origin - of the lizard with a wicked sense of humour. Free colour badge. $3.50

<> **Speed Racer 2** (of 3; Caputo & Koziarski

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+ Stegbauer) Older Brother Racer-X and Liz race to the rescue when they discover the crimes of Alphonso. $2.50

<> **Sting of the Green Hornet 3** (of 4; Fortier & Butler) Set in 1941, with the **Green Hornet**'s original creative team back at the helm as Green Hornet tries to circumnavigate the Baroness's schemes. Also available in "Collector's Edition" format, which includes a free 12x19" polybagged Butler poster. $2.50/$2.75

<> **Tales of the Green Hornet 8** (Van Hise & DeCaire + Kaalberg) Britt and Kato protect the Green Hornet's back from the police as he hunts down a serial killer. $1.95

<> **The Twilight Zone vol 2 #10** (Dorfman & Tidwell + Burcham) Lead story focuses on a *Twilight Zone* game-show, in which a contestant makes a pact with the devil for the big prize. $1.95/$4.95

RIP OFF PRESS

<> **The Adventures of Captain Nemo 3** (of 3; Vance & R. Davis) The Jules Verne adaptation concludes with the death of Prince Dakkar and birth of Nemo in the Alexandrian crypts. b&w 28pg $2.50

<> **The Magical Nymphini 5** Rescheduled. Adult, N, S. b&w 36pg $2.95

<> **Post Bros. 26** (Howarth) *Emperor Ron* - concluding episode. Ron Post's lost his memory of everything else - except his loathing of nuclear goddess Hiroshima, and when they meet again they become locked in a potentially fatal embrace. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Stranger in a Strange Land 4** (Bolinger) More Strange tales: *Satire from the Third Notch in the Bible Belt* and *Women of the Bible Belt*, introduced by Don Simpson. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Wimmin's Comix 17** (anthology; Robbins, Kominsky-Crumb, Noomin, Paley, Varty, Leschen). This month: *Wimmin's Comix* - a *kvetch* issue.

TUNDRA

<> **Doghead** (Al Columbia) Collected short stories by Al (**Big Numbers**) Columbia. Mature readers. 48pg $4.95

<> **Greenhouse Warriors** (Dakin & Elliot) With the entire southern hemisphere reduced to a desert through wanton pollution, a team of animated plants created by radical scientist Dr. Glass take upon themselves the thankless task of saving humanity. b&w 32pg $2.95

<> **Lazarus Churchyard 1** (of 3; Ellis & D'Israeli) *The Virtual Kiss*. Tundra's collection and revival of the **Blast!** cyberpunk series, with some previously unpublished material. Two-monthly schedule. Mature readers. 40pg $3.95

<> **Legends of Arzach: The Arzach Gallery Vol. 1** (Starwatcher and Tundra co-production; Lofficier & Moebius + various) Veritable feast of artwork inspired by Moebius, published as a tribute to the artist and celebration of the 15th anniversary of his introduction to American readers. The list of contributing artists reads like a *Who's Who* of contemporary comics' artistic excellence, and each issue features a new Arzach story with unseen Moebius artwork. Tundra pledges not to reprint the series. Part-colour. $12.95

<> **Peter Kuper's Comicstrips** (Kuper) Tales of travel and adventure, based on Kuper's global trip. Mature readers. b&w 64pg $6.95

<> **Rain 5** (of 6; Stark & Stevens) Rescheduled. *Book Five: The Disciple*. A study of fascism, violence, lust and obsession. Mature readers. b&w 32pg $2.95

<> **Sherlock Holmes in the Curious Case of the Vanishing Villain** (Rennie & Phoenix) One-shot in which Holmes is contracted by Dr. Jeckyll to find the missing Mr. Hyde. b&w 32pg $3.95

<> **Skidmarks 1** (of 3; Ilya) Reprint of the self-published cult story of Bic and his bicycle. b&w 32pg $2.95

<> **Taboo 6** Featuring 40pg episode of *From Hell* (A. Moore & Campbell); 16 pages of *Lost Girls* (A. Moore & Gebbie); 2 chapters of *Through the Habitrails* (Nicholson). Plus work by Grimes, Burns, S Clay Wilson and more. Includes a 16 page insert of **Sweeney Todd Penny Dreadful** (Gaiman & Zulli), introducing the new **Taboo** serial. Adult, N, S. Part-colour. 122pg $3.95

VALIANT

<> **Archer & Armstrong 2** (Shooter & Windsor-Smith + Reese) *Unity, Chapter 11*. Valiant multi-cross-over story, with Archer and Armstrong realising once again why they hang out with each other, even though they would prefer not to do so... Cover: Frank Miller. $2.50

<> **The Eternal Warrior 2** (Shooter & Jackson + J. Dixon) *Unity, Chapter 10*. Valiant cross-over story: with Archer and Sting guesting, Gilad and his brother Armstrong meet their foes of 10,000 years, the Saurobots. Cover: Frank Miller. 32pg $2.25

<> **Harbinger 9** (Shooter & Lapham + Mayo) *Unity, Chapter 16*. Guest-starring Magnus Robot Fighter. Sting kicks off, and Kris's child is born. Cover: Frank Miller. 32pg $2.50

<> **Magnus Robot Fighter 16** (Shooter & Colon) *Unity, Chapter 12*. Revelations to come regarding Magnus's real origin. Cover: Frank Miller. 32pg $2.25

<> **Rai 7** (Michelinie & St. Pierre + Bollinger) *Unity, Chapter 15*. Guest-starring Sting. The nexus of the Unity saga, with the death of a key player. Cover: Frank Miller. 32pg $2.25

<> **Shadowman 5** (Perozich & Lapham + Ryder) *Unity, Chapter 14: Heart of Darkness*. Shadowman teams up with the one he loves to do battle with the Eternal Warrior and Magnus Robot Fighter. Cover: Frank Miller. 32pg $2.50

<> **Solar, Man of the Atom 13** (Shooter & D. D. Perlin + Drake) *Unity, Chapter 17*. Features all the Valiant Universe characters in the conclusion to the *Unity* story-line, which sees the Lost Land laid to waste and the last battle with the god of Unity. Cover: Frank Miller. 40pg $2.25

<> **Unity 1** (Shooter & Windsor-Smith + Layton) *Unity, Epilogue* - the survivors pick up the threads of their lives once more. Cover: Barry Windsor-Smith. 16 pages free with the 8-title *Unity* set. $1.50

<> **X-O Manowar 8** (Shooter & Leeke + Ryder) *Unity Chapter 13*. Guest-starring the Harbinger kids. Wounded Aric is forced to fight an age-old enemy. Cover: Miller. 32pg $2.25

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

<> **Crying Freeman Part Four 4** (of 7; Koike & Ikegami) Freeman and Ivory Fan enter into a battle of wits with the Kidnappers Organisation. Adult, V, N. 32pg $2.75

<> **Ranma 1/2 #2** (Takahashi) Continued story of Ranma, a boy who turns into a girl when he gets wet. This issue: Ranma is the subject of jealousy when he starts school. 40pg $4.95

<> **Sanctuary 4** (Fumimura & Ikegami) Asami does deals with the Secretary-General, and Tokai is enraged by his rival, Hojo. $4.95

VORTEX

<> **Mister X, Vol. 2 #16** (Edgington & Holewczynski) Rescheduled. *Bordered in Black, Part 1* (of 3) $2.50

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COMICWATCH

Answering the demand for investment news on 'hot' titles, we introduce a regular monthly index, which in future issues will detail the comics which have increased fastest in value. Compiled by Derek G. Skinn

The **Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain** produces a comprehensive annual overview of UK values for US comics and the various American guide magazines detail US values for America. But the UK value can fluctuate rapidly for 'key' issues through increased demand when heroes, villains or creators suddenly become popular.

Comics International, with the help of retailers from across Britain, is assembling a *Value Growth Chart* for future issues, to follow the dramatic rise of 'hot' books every month. The top spot will not be won by the most expensive title, but by the title which has increased in value most. (Current favourites for next issue being **Spider-Man 361**, **Hulk 393** and **Ghost Rider 28**).

The following 100 'hot' title chart is a basis on which next month's increases will be calculated, so some titles may soon disappear. But please remember the following:

- The *average* values are taken from actual selling prices of fourteen shop and mail order retailers. These are spread across Great Britain to avoid any regional bias.
- Prices stated are for top grade, near mint copies. Suggested percentages for lower grades are: VF = 75%; FN = 60%; VG = 45%; G = 20%; Fair = 10%; Poor (but complete) = 5%
- The Retail Range figures reflect a wide difference but, surprisingly, while a retailer may have appeared high on some prices, the same person was low on others.
- Individual prices supplied to us are subject to specific dealers' stock levels and demand.
- Source information can be viewed (by appointment), but no names will be provided.

Participants: *Ace Comics (Colchester), Edge of Forever (Bexleyheath), Fabian Comics (London), Floppy Tongue (Salisbury), Imagination Station (Carlisle), Krypton (London), Ogre Books (Liverpool), Spaced Out (Three Bridges), Squonk (Wellingborough), Talisman (Belfast), They Walk Among Us (Richmond), 30th Century (London), Top Ten (London) and Wonderworld (Boscombe).*

TITLE & ISSUE NUMBER	average value	Dealer price range	Special Features
Alpha Flight 106	£3.40	£1.20 - £10.00	Northstar comes out
Amazing Spider-Man 298	£12.50	£8.00 - £15.00	1st Venom, 1st McF
Amazing Spider-Man 300	£13.75	£8.00 - £19.95	1st full Venom story
Amazing Spider-Man 360	£1.75	£0.85 - £3.50	1st Carnage app.
Amazing Spider-Man 361	£2.75	£0.85 - £6.00	1st full Carnage story
Amazing Spider-Man 362	£1.40	£0.85 - £3.50	Carnage Part 2
Amazing Spider-Man 363	£1.00	£0.85 - £2.00	Carnage Part 3
Astonishing Tales 25	£25.70	£4.95 - £60.00	1st Deathlok story
Astonishing Tales 26	£10.95	£3.95 - £20.00	2nd Deathlok story
Avengers 263	£3.35	£2.50 - £5.00	1st X-Factor
Captain America 180	£3.20	£1.80 - £5.00	1st Nomad story
Captain America 241	£16.15	£4.00 - £30.00	Punisher story
Captain America 286	£3.35	£1.50 - £7.00	Deathlok story Pt 1
Captain America 287	£3.20	£1.50 - £6.50	Deathlok story Pt 2
Captain America 288	£2.95	£1.50 - £5.00	Deathlok story Pt 3
Captain Marvel 26	£10.85	£5.00 - £20.00	2nd Thanos app.
Captain Marvel 27	£7.65	£3.00 - £15.00	3rd Thanos app.
Daredevil 254	£3.45	£1.00 - £6.50	1st Typhoid Mary
Daredevil 257	£8.70	£2.00 - £15.00	Punisher x-over
Daredevil 295	£1.25	£0.80 - £3.00	Ghost Rider x-over
Darkhawk 1	£2.85	£1.00 - £4.50	1st appearance
Doctor Strange 169	£35.00	£19.95 - £80.00	1st titled issue
Excalibur 42	£1.95	£1.20 - £2.50	1st new look, Davis
Ghost Rider 1 (1973)	£20.40	£10.00 - £40.00	Johnny Blaze version
Ghost Rider 1 (1990)	£9.15	£6.95 - £13.00	1st new look app.
Ghost Rider 5 (1991)	£5.60	£2.75 - £8.00	Punisher story
Ghost Rider 14 (1991)	£2.25	£1.25 - £3.95	1st new Johnny Blaze
Ghost Rider 15 (1991)	£4.50	£3.00 - £8.50	Glow-in-dark cover
Ghost Rider 25 (1992)	£1.85	£1.75 - £2.00	Pop-up centre
Guardians of the Galaxy 1	£4.70	£1.00 - £12.00	1st Valentino issue
Incredible Hulk 330	£8.10	£5.00 - £13.25	1st David & McFarlane
Incredible Hulk 340	£10.70	£4.50 - £20.00	Wolverine story
Incredible Hulk 367	£4.60	£1.95 - £8.00	1st Keown artwork
Incredible Hulk 377	£5.55	£1.95 - £7.50	1st 'new' Hulk
Incredible Hulk 393	£1.85	£1.50 - £2.75	30th anniv giant
Iron Man 55	£39.20	£6.00 - £60.00	1st Thanos app.
Iron Fist 14	£27.55	£2.95 - £50.00	1st Sabretooth app.
Logan's Run 6	£5.45	£1.95 - £10.00	Thanos backup story
Marvel Comics Presents 62	£2.10	£0.90 - £5.00	Deathlok story
Marvel Comics Presents 72	£3.30	£1.50 - £5.00	Weapon X begins
Marvel Comics Presents 100	£1.20	£1.00 - £2.00	Wolv & Ghost Rider
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New Mutants 87	£25.85	£12.50 - £35.00	1st full Cable story
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Punisher 10	£11.10	£2.95 - £15.00	Daredevil x-over
Punisher 57	£2.15	£1.25 - £5.00	Lee gatefold poster
Punisher War Journal 6	£6.40	£4.00 - £9.00	Wolverine story
Punisher War Journal 29	£1.80	£1.25 - £4.00	Ghost Rider Part 1
Punisher War Journal 30	£1.70	£1.25 - £3.00	Ghost Rider Part 2
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Brit	= British titles
frgn	= foreign language comics
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gn	= graphic novels & trade paperback editions
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STO	= standing order service, new comics reserved
RPG	= role playing games

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● FORBIDDEN PLANET, 71 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1DG Mon - Wed + Sat 10.00 - 6.00; Thurs + Fri 10.00 - 8.00 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/gs, Brit, frgn, gn, m/o, film & tv fantasy) 071 379 6042

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● GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING, 475 Bethnal Green Rd, London E2 9QH. Mon-Wed 11 - 6; Thurs-Sat 11-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, Brit, ind, STO, graphic novel specialists) 071 613 0500

● MEGA-CITY COMICS, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon - Sun 10.00 - 6.00; late nights Thurs + Fri 'til 7.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film & tv fantasy, horror, body art, sub-culture (psychotronic, alternate reality, sub-genius, cult, etc.) m/o, STO) 071 485 9320

● STATESIDE COMICS PLC AT VIRGIN, 1st Floor, Virgin Marble Arch, 527-531 Oxford St, London W1. Mon-Wed & Fri 9.30 - 7.30; Thurs 9.30-8.00; Sat 9.00 - 7.30; Sun 12.00-7.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO, m/o) 071-499 8839 (fax: 071-491 4806)

● TOP TEN SOHO, Unit 3, 9-12 St Anne's Court, Soho, London W1V 3AX. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, m/o, STO) 071-734 7388

OUTER LONDON

● ATOMIC COMICS, 1112 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Sat 10 - 6 excl Fri 10 - 7 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, 2nd hand horror fantasy sf bks, original art, m/o - no lists, send wants + sae or phone) 081-597 8547

● CALAMITY COMICS, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, m/o, STO, videos) 081-427 3831

● COMIC SHACK, 720 High Road, Leyton-stone, London E11 3NN. Mon - Thurs 9.30 - 5.30; Fri & Sat 9.30 - 5.30; Sun 11-5.30. Also by appointment (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, gn, hbks, m/o to wants list with sae) 081-539 7260 / 081-555 9303

● DYNAMIC COMICS, Units 70-72, In Shops Centre, 68 Church St, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RB. Mon - Sat 9.00 -5.30pm. (imp, back, ind, s-p, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, merch, m/o - send wants lists) phone & fax 081-681 2597

● EDGE OF FOREVER, THE, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. Mon - Wed 10 - 6; Thurs 10 - 7; Fri 10 - 8; Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, merch s-p, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 081-298 1363

● ENIGMA THE GATEWAY, 22 Keeley Road, Croydon. Mon - Fri 8.30 - 6.30; Sat 9 - 6; Sun 11 - 3.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, ind, u/g, STO, RPG & supplements) 081 680 4434

● GARY'S BOOK & COMIC STALL, Site A65, The High Street, Walthamstow, London E17. Thur + Fri 9.30 - 4.30; Sat 8.00 - 5.00. Tube: Walthamstow Central (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, annuals, children's bks.

● INFINITY COMICS, 218 Francis Rd, Leyton, London E10 6NQ. Mon - Sat 10.30 - 6.30 (imp, back, ind, STO, m/o) 081 556 2727

● KRYPTON KOMICS & BOOKS, 252 High Rd, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Fri 9.30 - 6.00; Sat 9-6.30. Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, m/o) 081-801 5378

● READERS DREAM, 100A Harlington Road West, Feltham, (near Heathrow airport) Middlesex TW14 0JJ. Mon-Sat 9.30 - 6.00 excl Weds - closed. (imp, back, gn, STO, computer repairs) 081-844 0780

● SKINNY MELINK'S COMIC SHOP, 66 Loampit Vale, Lewisham, London SE 13. Mon - Thur 11.00 - 6.30; Fri 11.00 - 7.00; Sat 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 081-318 0499

● STATESIDE COMICS PLC, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF. Mon - Wed 10.00 - 7.00; Thurs & Fri 10.00 - 8.00; Sat 9.00 - 6.00; Sun 10.00 - 3.00 (or later by appointment). (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, hbks, tv-film & fantasy, gn, m/o, STO) 081-449 5535 (10 lines)

● THEY WALK AMONG US, 30 Union Court, Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 excl Fri 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy/sci-fi/horror books, Falcon Press, trading cards, RESearch & other sub-culture. Wants lists welcomed. Ph/fax 081 948 8476

● TIME TREK, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 081 313 0677

● TWILIGHT ZONE (London), 36 Bell Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3PB. Opens Sat March 14. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.30 (imp, back, ind, gn, m/o). 081 570 0615.

● WESTSIDE COMICS, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO). Opening soon: for updates, telephone Phil on 081 756 0485.

● WHITE LIGHT BOOKS, 695 Seven Sisters Road, London N15. Mon - Sat 9 - 7.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/gs, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, sf fantasy horror gn, tv sf mags & books, sub-culture) 081-880 2258

SOUTH EAST

● AMERICAN COMIC ENTERPRISE, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts) 0206 561 912

● CARTOON SHOP, Upper Galleries, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon, Essex. Mon - Wed & Sat 10.00 - 6.00, Thurs & Fri 10.00 - 8.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0268 534194

● CARTOON SHOP, 21-22 Talza Way, Lower Ground Floor, Victoria Circus Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0702 613021

● CHAOS CITY COMICS, Unit 86 - 87, In Shops, The Maltings, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3HLO (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 0727 838719

COMIC SHOWCASE, 19-20 St Clements Street, Oxford. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0865-723680

● EXCALIBER COMICS, 19 The Hornet, Unit 1, The Alms House Arcade, Chichester, West Sussex. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, Brit, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0243 537070

● FANTASTIC STORE, Virgin Megastore, 157-161 Western Road, Brighton BN1 2BB. Mon-Wed 9 - 6; Thurs 9 - 8; Fri-Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0273-25300

● PAPERBACK READER, 82 Queens Road, Hastings, TN34 1RL. Mon - Sat (excl Wed, closed) 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, assorted 2nd hand ppbks) 0424 446749

● SIEGI'S COMICS & BAGS, Unit 3, 6 Orange St, Canterbury, Kent. Mon - Sat 9 - 6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, tv SF, gum cards, classic sf memorabilia, m/o) 0227 470840

● SPACED OUT COMICS, 31 Hazelwick Road, Three Bridges, Crawley. (near Three Bridges train station) Mon - Sat 10.00 - 8.00, Sun by appointment only. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, m/o, STO, discounts available) 0293 531736

● STRANGE DAYS, 9a The Parade, Northgate, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2DT. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG) 0293 522803

● TROJAN COMICS, 14B Upper High Street, Epsom, Surrey KT17 4QJ. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00 excl Thurs 10 - 7.00, Sat 9 - 5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn) 0372-743776

● WHATEVER COMICS, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, model kits) 0227 453226

MIDLANDS

● ANOTHER WORLD, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0533 515266

● ANOTHER WORLD, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0602 484 122

● ARRIVAL COMICS, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.15. imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, horror videos, adult (non-porn) mags. 0902-313 660

● BOOKWORM, Unit 3 33-39 Tower Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon - Sat 11.00 - 4.00. (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 0553 760904/771880

● CENTRAL CITY COMICS 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10 - 6. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, m/o: wants lists with sae) 0473 233017

● COMIC SHOWCASE, 17 Norfolk Street, Cambridge. Mon - Fri 11.00 -6.00; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0223-69206

● COMICS UNLIMITED, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford. Mon 9.00 - 8.00pm; Tues - Sat 9.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, STO, RPG)

● DEMON COMICS, 12 Berrington Street, Hereford HR4 0BJ. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 0432 358355

● FANTASTIC STORE, 6 Suffolk Street, Queensway, Birmingham B1 1LT. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 6; Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 021-643 3667

● FANTASTIC STORE, Virgin Megastore, 6-8 Wheelergate, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0602-476246

● FANTASY WORLD, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0782 279294 (fax 0782 202381)

● GROUND ZERO, 11 Hanley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, m/o, STO, accessories) 0623 22017

● NOSTALGIA & COMICS, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6. (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, m/o, STO) 021 643 0143

● OUTER LIMITS 4 The Broadway, Bedford, MK40 2TH. Tues - Sat 9am - 6pm, Mon 9am - 8pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, video) 0234 358581

● OUTER LIMITS, 12 King Street, Luton LU1 2DP. Mon-Sat 9 - 6; Thurs late night until 8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, video) 0582 422082

● PLANET X, 5 London Road, Worcester Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, m/o, STO - advance orders taken monthly) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

● SQUONK, 25 Midland Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 1HA. Mon - Wed 10 - 5.30; closed Thurs; Fri 9.30 - 6.00, Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, Brit, merch, ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) Phone / fax 0933 442340

COMICS INTERNATIONAL

● STRANGE TALES, 3 Hurts Yard, Nottingham NG1 6JD. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, hbks) 0602 411 325

● ZOOM COMICS!!, Units 46-47, 'In Shops' Centre, Sutton Market Hall, 97 The Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. Tues - Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (back issue specialist, gn, ind, M/O) 021-355 6622

NORTH WEST

● ARCADIA COMICS, 12 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7PT (next to Comet). Mon - Sat 10 - 5.15 (imp, back, ind, horror & sf mags and novels, Doctor Who, Trek, ltd merch, ltd gn. Brit, STO, ltd toys & figures, m/o -- send wants list) 061 339 1816

● 4th DIMENSION, Back Piccadilly, Piccadilly, Manchester. Mon - Sat 11.00 - 6.00 (back, sf & horror novels, Doctor Who, Star Trek, mags & more). 061 237 5996

● IMAGINATION STATION, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO)

● ODYSSEY 7, 21 Hanging Ditch, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3ES. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror books, postcards, videos, badges, soundtracks, stills, LF filmbooks, Star Trek, Doctor Who.) 061 832 7044

● ODYSSEY 7, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf - fantasy - horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 061 273 6666

● OGRE BOOKS, 120 Picton Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, s-p, Brit) 051 733 0149

● THUNDERBOOKS, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool. 10.00 - 5.30 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat all year; Mon & Sun in season (closed Wed). Out of season open Wed, closed Sun + Mon. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, kits, limited gn, m/o, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0253-48321

● THUNDERBOOKS II, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancs. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, limited gn, m/o, kits, t-shirts, media collectors' items. 0772-204287

● THE TIME TUNNEL, 66 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7HD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm excl Weds. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, model kits, toys, action figures, Doctor Who, Star Trek)

● WORLDS APART, Acorn Gallery, 16 Newington, (city centre) Liverpool L1 4ED. Mon - Sat (excl Wed) 10.00 - 6.00; Wed 12.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy film mags, body art) 051 707 0839

NORTH EAST

● ARMADILLO, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00; late Thurs & Fri to 8.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks, heavy metal t-shirts. 0482 29787

● BOOKS N' COMICS, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, Fleetway, horror-sf- fantasy gns, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, bags boxes & accessories) 0642 249 143

● BOOKS N' COMICS, Unit 8, Regency West Mall, Princes Regent Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, Fleetway, horror/sf fantasy gn, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, boxes bags & accessories) 0642 617 241

● DELLS COMIC & BOOK STALLS, 129 Kirkgate Market, Bradford 1. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00 excl Wed 9.00 - 3.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 0274 390 541

● HAPPY PLANET, Rocks Off, 85 Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 2RD. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.30, Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, s-p, Brit, STO) 0274 736 292

● NOSTALGIA & COMICS, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.15 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror magazines, newspaper strip compilations) 0742 769475

● NU EARTH COMICS, 4 Davygate Centre, York Y01 2SU. Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30; Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, art bks) 0904 611 461

● ODYSSEY, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Trek, Who, etc) 0532 426 325

● SHEFFIELD SPACE CENTRE, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, m/o, STO, Trek items) 0742 758905

● SKYRACK BOOK SERVICE, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps, m/o) Established 1965.

WEST COUNTRY

● COMICS & CDs, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0272 244655

● FLOPPY TONGUE COMICS, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0722 331107

● THE HOBBIT HOLE, 9 Commercial Rd, Gloucester, Glos. Mon 12.00 - 5.30; Tues - Sat 10.00 -5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film- tv mags and merch) 0452 309 533

● JOY'S COMICS, 25 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EZ. Mon - Sun 7.30 - 6. (imp back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o) 0305 269737 after 6pm 833304

● KATHIES COMICS, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 0752 257800

● TIME ZONE, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, m/o, STO, RPG)

● WONDERWORLD, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 0202 422 964

● WONDERWORLD, Unit 2, Bevois St, Southampton S01 1JD. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0703 234815

ISLE OF WIGHT

● ASTOUNDING COMICS, 74 High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 1BG. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0983 825544

WALES

● CARDIFF FANTASY CENTRE, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30 - 5.00. (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, computerised STO, videos; establ 12 yrs) 0222 563005

● COMIX SHOPPE, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.00, Sat 10.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, u/g, film/tv magazines) 0792 642097

● FORBIDDEN PLANET, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 excl Thurs 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0222 228885

● JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Thurs - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO)

● NEGATIVE ZONE, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, STO) 0633 222159

SCOTLAND

● AKA BOOKS & COMICS, 25 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5RJ Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00pm; Sun 12.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn) 041 552 6692

● BLACK HOLE COMIC SHOP, The Market Hall, Wellgate Centre, Dundee. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO) 0382 21037

● DEAD HEAD COMICS, 44 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2JW. Mon - Wed, Fri, Sat: 10 - 6.30; Thurs 11 - 7.30; Sunday 12 - 4. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 031 226 2774

● FORBIDDEN PLANET, 2 - 3 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30, excl Thurs till 6.30. (imp, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, m/o, STO) 031-225 8613

● FORBIDDEN PLANET (back issues), 17 West Cross Causeway, Edinburgh. Thurs - Sat 10.00 - 5.3030, excl Thurs till 6.30. (back issue specialists) 031-667 0426

● FORBIDDEN PLANET, 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon to Wed 10.00 - 5.30; Thurs + Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 10.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 041 331 1215

● FUTURE SHOCK, 89 Byres Rd, Partick, Glasgow G11. Mon - Sat 10 - 6; Sun 1 - 5. (imp, back, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO. SF & horror gn & hbk, film bks & mags. artwork, jewellery) 041 339 8184

● GRAFFIX LIT, 26 The Arcade, Stirling. Monmouthshire. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, STO, videos, m/o - send wants) 0786 51885

● PARKER'S COMICS, 340 King Street, Aberdeen AB2 3BJ. Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.00; Sat 11.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0224 635835 fax: 647952

● PAUL'S COMICS, The Barras Market, Glasgow. Saturday & Sunday 8.30 - 4.30. (imp, back, ind, STO, m/o: PO Box 932, Glasgow G21 1YY, sae for want list) Mon - Fri: 041 557 1186

NORTHERN IRELAND

● TALISMAN COMICS, 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0232-438 744

CHANNEL ISLANDS

● MUSIC + VIDEO EXCHANGE, 11a La Motte Street, St Helier, Jersey. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (back, ind, Brit, u/g, records, videos, hi-fi, m/o -- wants lists preferred) 0534 36606

● TRICK OR TREAT, 15 Esplanade, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3QA Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, French, u/g, gn, STO, fantasy film & tv mags, m/o -- send wants lists) 0534-67429

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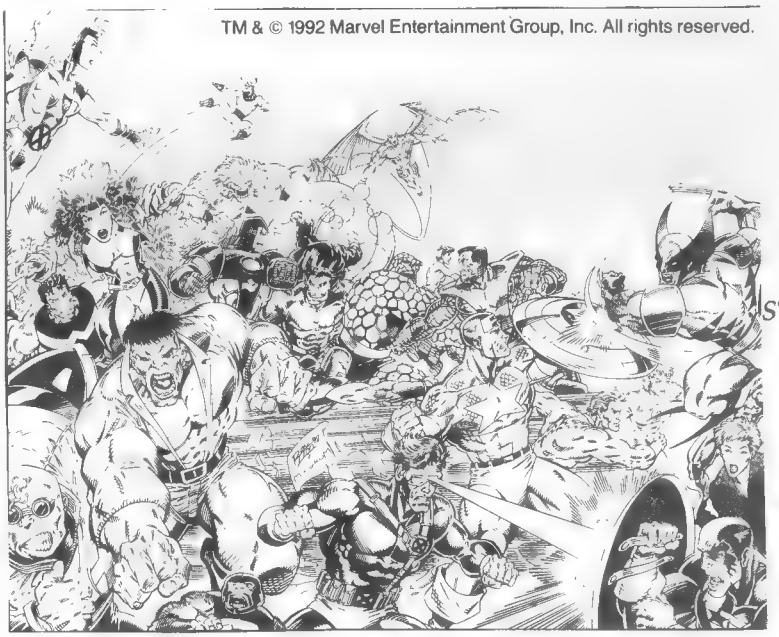

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Our Order List is jammed packed with special offers, bargains and discounts aimed at the keen collector. Every month there will be a **FREE DRAW** for a quality T Shirt (picked at random from received orders for that month) as well as a helpful information leaflet to guide you through our Order List.

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Welcome to the Comics Warehouse. This is a special preview listing for Comics International readers featuring some of the readable and collectable dc comics available for purchase from the warehouse. All the books listed are stocked in depth, usually in quantities of 50 to 500, and although we know that the more popular ones are going to go fast, new stock is arriving all the time. **Note:** Advertisement valid until 31/5/92

You can place your order in a number of ways, ***by fax, mail or phone.*** *Please refer to the instructions at the end of the listing for full details.*

SPECIAL OFFER

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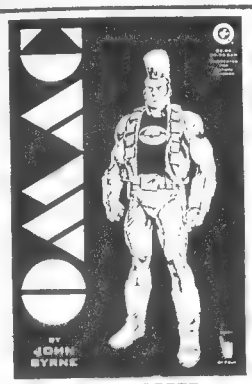
SPECIAL OFFER

SANDMAN SPECIAL #1. (1991; $3.50; 68pg; HOT; O/Street $4.50)

Per copy £2.00
3 or more (each) £1.50



SPECIAL OFFER

OMAC #1-4 (Prestige mini-series, John Byrne art; US cover value: $15.80)

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Two prices are stated, the first is for one copy (or one set), the second offers a greater discount if you buy three (or more) copies of the same comic (or set).

Abbreviations used:
A2001 = Armageddon 2001 tie-in
WotG = War of the Gods tie-in
Mill = Millenium tie-in
Inv = Invasion tie-in
Crisis = Crisis on Infinite Earths

ACTION COMICS

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597 (Byrne)	£0.75	£0.60
598 (Byrne)	£0.75	£0.60
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603 (48 pages)	£0.50	£0.40
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617 (48 pages)	£0.50	£0.40
618 (48 pages)	£0.50	£0.40
619 (48 pages)	£0.50	£0.40
658	£0.60	£0.40
659	£0.60	£0.40
660	£0.60	£0.40
661	£0.60	£0.40
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663	£0.60	£0.40
664	£0.60	£0.40
665	£0.60	£0.40
666	£0.60	£0.40
667 (48 pages)	£1.00	£0.75
668	£0.60	£0.40
669	£0.60	£0.40
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671	£0.60	£0.40
672	£0.60	£0.40
673	£0.60	£0.40
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28	£0.60	£0.50
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35	£0.60	£0.50
36	£0.60	£0.50

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11	£0.40	£0.30
12	£0.40	£0.30
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18	£0.40	£0.30
19	£0.40	£0.30
20	£0.40	£0.30

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430	£0.60	£0.45
431	£0.60	£0.45
432	£0.60	£0.45
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448	£0.60	£0.45
449 (Inv)	£0.75	£0.50
450	£0.60	£0.45
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463	£0.60	£0.45
464 (Lobo; pre #1)	£0.95	£0.65
465	£0.60	£0.45
466	£0.60	£0.45
467	£0.60	£0.45
468	£0.60	£0.45
469	£0.60	£0.45
470	£0.60	£0.45
471	£0.60	£0.45
472	£0.60	£0.45
473	£0.60	£0.45
474	£0.60	£0.45
475	£0.60	£0.45
476	£0.60	£0.45
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478	£0.60	£0.45
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480	£0.60	£0.45
481	£0.60	£0.45
482	£0.60	£0.45
483	£0.60	£0.45
484	£0.60	£0.45
485	£0.60	£0.45
486	£0.60	£0.45
Annual 3 (A2001)	£1.00	£0.75

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30	£1.00	£0.75
31	£1.00	£0.75
32	£1.00	£0.75
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39	£1.00	£0.75
40	£1.00	£0.75
41	£1.00	£0.75
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3	£1.50	£1.00
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456	£0.60	£0.50
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458	£0.60	£0.50
459	£0.60	£0.50
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461	£0.60	£0.50
462	£0.60	£0.50
463	£0.60	£0.50
464	£0.60	£0.50
465 (New Robin rejoins Batman)	£0.95	£0.70
466	£0.60	£0.50
467	£0.60	£0.50
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469	£0.60	£0.50
470	£0.60	£0.50
471	£0.60	£0.50
472	£0.60	£0.50
473	£0.60	£0.50
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25 (Gil Kane)	£1.00	£0.80
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10	£0.60	£0.40
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47	£0.60	£0.40
48	£0.60	£0.40
49	£0.60	£0.40
50	£0.60	£0.40
51	£0.60	£0.40
52	£0.60	£0.40
53	£0.60	£0.40
54	£0.60	£0.40
55 (JLA x-over)	£0.60	£0.40
56	£0.50	£0.40
57	£0.50	£0.40

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822	£0.60	£0.50
823	£0.60	£0.50
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830	£0.60	£0.50
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837	£0.60	£0.50
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35	£0.80	£0.60
36	£0.80	£0.60

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list continues on next page

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43	£1.00	£0.80
44	£1.00	£0.80
45	£1.00	£0.80
46	£1.00	£0.80
47	£1.00	£0.80
48	£1.00	£0.80
49	£1.00	£0.80
50 ($2.50, giant)	£1.50	£1.00
51	£1.00	£0.80

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11	£0.60	£0.40
12	£0.60	£0.40
13	£0.60	£0.40
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46	£0.60	£0.40
47	£0.60	£0.40
48	£0.60	£0.40
49	£0.60	£0.40
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51	£0.60	£0.40
52	£0.60	£0.40
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55	£0.60	£0.40
56	£0.60	£0.40
57	£0.60	£0.40
58	£0.60	£0.40
Annual 4 (A2001)	£1.50	£1.00
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19	£0.80	£0.50
20	£0.80	£0.50
21	£0.80	£0.50
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25	£0.80	£0.50

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for mature readers

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43	£1.00	£0.75
44	£1.00	£0.75
45	£1.00	£0.75
46	£1.00	£0.75
47	£1.00	£0.75
48	£1.00	£0.75
49	£1.00	£0.75
50 ($2.50; 52 pgs)	£1.00	£0.75
51	£1.00	£0.75
52	£1.00	£0.75
53	£1.00	£0.75
54	£1.00	£0.75
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13 (52 pgs)	£0.75	£0.50
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20	£0.60	£0.40
21	£0.60	£0.40
22	£0.60	£0.40
23	£0.60	£0.40
24	£0.60	£0.40
25 (52 pages)	£0.75	£0.60
26	£0.60	£0.40
27	£0.60	£0.40
28 (final; 52 pages)	£1.00	£0.75

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9	£0.75	£0.50
10	£0.75	£0.50
11	£0.75	£0.50
12	£0.75	£0.50
13	£0.75	£0.50
14	£0.75	£0.50
15	£0.75	£0.50
16	£0.75	£0.50
17	£0.75	£0.50
18	£0.75	£0.50
19	£0.75	£0.50
20	£0.75	£0.50
Annual 1 ($2.95, 1990, origin, Flash)	£1.75	£1.20

HELLBLAZER
For mature readers

45	£1.00	£0.80
46	£1.00	£0.80
47	£1.00	£0.80
48	£1.00	£0.80
49	£1.00	£0.80
50 ($3.00,giant)	£1.50	£1.20

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Review codes: *General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with other ***similar*** *titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare* ***Love & Rockets*** *to* ***Batman****, but review each within the context of its own genre.*
The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +>) if there has been a notable improvement.

Reviewing panel: Ahmet Ali, Carl Bateman, Les Chester, Jonathan Farmer, Steven Fountain, Peter Hayward-Brewer, Rol Hurst, Mike Kidson, Skinny Melink, Peter C. Phillips, Toby Reeve, Derek G. Skinn, Alan Woollcombe.

DC COMICS

Action Comics 675 <+> (Stern & McLeod + Rodier) *Panic in the Sky: Fourth Strike*. Brainiac exercises his mind-controlling abilities, turning hero against hero in a seen-it-before-no-holds-barred actioner. It's the guest stars that are the attraction... (PCP) **8**

Action Comics 676 <+ -> (Stern & Guice) Assassin-for-hire Hellgrammite's murder attempt on Luthor comes to grief when party guest Clark Kent dons his tux. Meanwhile sub-plots pile up, and with so much going on in the Super-titles these days, minor gripes such as Jackson Guice's unhappy renderings of some of the characters (remember Jack Kirby's Superman faces?) are easily ignored. (AW) **7**

<+> Marking the introduction of Guice, who brings a great deal of talent to an already impressive title. His knowledge of anatomy adds a whole new dimension to the book, not least of which is his Lois, by far the most attractive depiction of her yet... (JF) **8**

<+> Luthor Jr. is targeted by assassin-for-hire Hellgrammite in what is essentially a rehash of previous events. Supergirl and Matrix guest. (PCP) **6**

Adventures of Superman 488 <+> (Ordway & Grummett + Hazelwood) *Panic in the Sky: Third Strike*. Pretty much the same as preceding issues, (ie. Superman and his allies gang up on Brainiac. But it's sheer enjoyment nonetheless. (PCP) **8**

Adventures of Superman 489 <+ -> (Ordway & Grummett) Superman and the heroes return to Earth, Jimmy Olsen returns to the *Daily Planet* and Emil Hamilton returns to his role as absent-minded professor (you just know he's going to mess up). Great to see the title's cast staying in character with the plots growing out of such. (AW) **7**

<+ -> *Panic in the Sky: Epilogue*. Heroes return to Earth for a ticker-tape welcome in an unbalanced narrative that concludes the Brainiac story-line and segues into a new Husque serial. As a result, it's neither one thing nor another. (PCP) **5**

Agent Liberty Special 1 (Jurgens & Abell) Another semi-flag-bedecked hero with governmental connections is supplied with an origin yarn woven from recent US foreign excursions. Acceptable enough, but surely DC already have the Guardian for this kind of thing? (AW) **5**

Aquaman 6 <+> (McLaughlin & Hooper + Dvorak) Hate-filled Aquaman is out for blood in a fight to the death with Manta, which leads to a bizarre outcome neither could have predicted. Emotionally intense actioner. (PCP) **8**

<+> Excellent artwork and a good scripts. Aquaman finally faces the man who killed his son. We even have an insight into the Black Manta's motivations. A great series. (PH-B) **7**

<+ -> As Aquaman battles Manta, perhaps to the death, the dialogue becomes even more stilted and strained. The artwork, however, steadily improves and is, by now, looking beautiful. (JF) **8**

Armageddon: Inferno 1 (Ostrander & Mandrake, McDonnell + Adams + Netzer + Simonson + Solotoff) A good start to an interesting story, mainly due to the pin-up story pages. *Armageddon* may be a well-worn theme, but it looks as if it will have the potential here for all sorts of bizarre team-ups. (JF) **8**

Devil-worshippers cause a demon to crash through the fabric of reality, giving Waverider a further chance to shine, aided and abetted by different era DC heroes. Superior by far to the two Monarch entries and a series that will see the return to DC continuity of the legendary Justice Society of America. (PCP) **9**

Armageddon: Inferno 2 <-> (Ostrander & McDonnell, Netzer, Simonson + Solotoff) Luckily the story is still good, but the opening sequence is drawn appallingly. From then on, it improves, as Lobo teams up with Guy Gardener and Enemy Ace in the prehistoric age, whilst Sgt. Rock meets Hawkman and Hawkwoman. The idea is still better than the execution. (JF) **7**

Batman vs Predator 3 (of 3; Gibbons and A. & A. Kubert) The armour-plated Dark Knight sets up the final confrontation with the equally armour-plated Predator, plus a couple of surprises dropped into the mix. A generally satisfying cross-company romp. (PCP) **8**

Batman 476 <+> (Grant & Breyfogle) An explosive climax to the Scarface trilogy which overshadows Batman's desire to reveal his identity to Vicki Vale. It's something of a non-event, despite the "startling" cover illustration. An issue worth savouring and saving. (PCP) **8**

Batman 477 <+++> (Wagner & Kennedy) *Gotham Tale, Part 1*. Trapped in a time-locked vault, Batman and his two fellow captives must decide who should die in order to preserve the remaining oxygen. Superb change of pace to the storyline, with a most unusual cover-photo design. (PCP) **9**

<+> This year's bi-weekly issues get off to an excellent start. John Wagner always brings new depth to the characters he writes and here Batman does more than just battle the bad guys. Refreshing and well drawn. (JF) **9**

Comet 10 <+> (Waid & West + Panosian + Albrecht) *Coming of the Crusaders, Part 2*. Things are somewhat fishy in the town of Evergreen - literally - as a mutated monster stalks main street. Fly and Dolphus guest in this fan romp. (PCP) **7**

Deathstroke the Terminator 9 <-> (Wolfman & Erwin + Blyberg) *City of Assassins, Part 4*. Debut of the all-new, all-female Vigilante in a predictable brawl issue, guest-starring the Batman. (PCP) **4**

Deathstroke the Terminator 10 <- +> (Wolfman & Nichols + Perez) Shot-in-the-arm guest artists seemingly inspire Wolfman to turn out a much better than average story in a so far hit-and-miss series. The focus here is on the new vigilante and it's a doozy. (PCP) **9**

Detective 642 <+> (Grant & Aparo) *Return of Scarface: Part 2*. Vicki Vale is caught in the cross-fire as the Scarface-Domonz gang-war hits overdrive. Aparo returns to inking his own pencils, adding greater dimension to the visuals than of late. (PCP) **7**

Detective 643 <++> (Milligan & Aparo) Mad librarian goes on a killing spree, arranging his victims in library classifications. Milligan's **Batman** swansong, and his best. (PCP) **9**

Doctor Fate 39 <+> (Loebs & Pross) Inza is summoned before a Senate Committee to explain her recent - and allegedly - subversive behaviour. Turning the entire Senate into newts hardly helps her case, although she still winds up the winner. An interesting interpretation of how power corrupts as the series, for now, winds down to its issue 14 close. (PCP) **7**

Elongated Man 4 <-> (of 4; G. Jones & Parobeck + Templeton) Final episode of a lacklustre mini-series of little merit. (PCP) **2**

Flash 61 <+> (Messner-Loebs & Whigham + McLaughlin) Mary West ties the knot and her "dead" husband turns up for the ceremony. Messner-Loebs bows out with his usual aplomb. (PCP) **7**

Flash 62 <++> (Waid & LaRoque + Marzan) Okay, it's a flash-back as new scripter Waid takes a look at Wally's Kid Flash origin and spins a spellbinding yarn without changing any of the known history. Given up on the Flash? This "Year One" could pull you back. (PCP) **8**

Fly 8 <-> (Strazewski & Parobeck + Fricke) No frills actioner and run-of-the-mill super-hero slugfest with the Fly coming to the rescue when the Comet mistakenly believes Dolphus to be a monster. (PCP) **3**

Fly 9 <+> (Strazewski & Bigley + Fricke) *Coming of the Crusaders, Pt 3*. New hero Fireball makes his debut, joining forces with Fly and Comet against a bogus Shield. Routine melodrama. (PCP) **5**

The Golden Age 1 (J. Robertson & P. Smith) This review is taken from a preview copy, so changes may occur by the time of printing, but as it stands: Johnny Quick is struggling to make a film about the JSA after the war, Robotman's acting like Iron Man from the old Black Sabbath chestnut, while nutty-as-a-fruitcake is the most apt description for poor old Starman. Robinson's script has **Watchmen** overtones, nevertheless it's a bloody good read; the first comic in ages to make me want to pick up the next issue! Smith's artistic composition is a pleasure to look at. (PB) **9**

Gotham Nights 3 (of 4; Ostrander & Mitchell + Patterson + DeCarlo) A complex series, almost impossible to review, requiring all four chapters to be "in the bag" to decide its overall worth. What isn't in doubt is the artwork of Mary Mitchell. Simple, uncluttered, excellent story-telling. Scrumptious. (PCP) **8**

Green Arrow 60 <-> (Grell &

Hoberg + Nyberg) Child rapist is stalked by Black Canary in a played-out yawn-inducer. (PCP) **3**

<+ -> More people ought to be reading these morally challenging, no-nonsense tales, the current two-parter a good place to start off, with its stunning but satisfying ending here. Inker John Nyberg raises penciller Hoberg's art above the ordinary. (SM) **9**

Hawkworld 22 <+> (Ostrander & Nolan + Bryant) With Katar and Shayera back on the planet Thanagar, who are the Hawkman and Hawkwoman on Earth encountered by John Jones - and are they who they say they are? An interesting puzzler, and great to see the Kubert Hawk costumes back in action. (PCP) **7**

Hellblazer 53 <+++> (Ennis & Simpson) Much better than last issue, a real creepy-crawly, better balanced, plus improved colouring. Artist Simpson demonstrates that he can put together a nice page - if nothing else. (SM) **7**

Justice League America 61 <+> (Jurgens & Burchett) Brilliant! Jurgens proves to be the perfect choice to re-introduce excitement to this old theme. From the homage cover to the cliff-hanger ending, this is what it's all supposed to be about. (JF) **9**

Justice League America 62 <+> (Jurgens & Jurgens + Guice) Beetle is called upon to use his wits to defeat the Weapons Master, as Dan Jurgens once again makes this a readable title. The enigmatic Bloodwynd guests. (PCP) **8**

<+ -> The art gets better, but I lost some of the plot points along the way, and it ends a bit abruptly. Still, minor quibbles for an issue that shows Jurgens' understanding of pace, plotting and action. The world's greatest heroes are back. (JF) **8**

Justice League Europe 36 <+ -> (Jones & Wozniak + Patterson) *Breakdowns: Postscript*. The League disbands - again! As a set-up for the League to come it's generally been a boring journey. This filler is no exception. (PCP) **3**

Justice League Europe 37 <+> (Jones & Randall + Elliot) Nutcase artist acquires alien weaponry and launches an assault on a UN fund-raising bash attended by the new JLE. Murphy Anderson again provides the inks on the new but old style cover. Humour is well-placed and is a breath of fresh air after the tired and played-out Giffen era zaniness. (PCP) **8**

Justice League Europe 38 <-> (Jones & Randall + Elliot) Unfortunately, this comic has rarely been worse. Randall seems to have completely burnt out and has his villain try to make word-play while wandering in London. The art team make everyone look effeminate! A disaster. (JF) **3**

Justice League Spectacular 1 (Jurgens & Jones and Jurgens + Burchett & Randall + Elliot) Mundane actioner as the JLA is reformed by Superman. The one highlight is the cameo appearance of so many of DC's former "funny animal" stars. It's hard, though, to distinguish any difference from the Giffen period. (PCP) **6**

Legends of the Dark Knight 28 <++> (Wagner) *Faces: Part 1*. Property deals, a group of freakish outcasts and Two-Face are pieces of the jigsaw puzzle laid down by Matt Wagner in an intriguing opening episode. Don't miss it. (PCP) **9**

Legends of the Dark Knight 29 <+ -> (Wagner) *Faces*, chapter two involves blackmail, seduction, Two-Face and an entourage of freaks. High caliber comics noir. (AW) **7**

Legend of the Shield 10 <-> (Miehm & Waid + Miehm) Nondescript actioner that requires immense suspension of disbelief throughout. It's a far from auspicious opener in *The Coming of the Crusaders* story-line. (PCP) **2**

Legion of Super-Heroes 29 <+> (Giffen & T. & M. Bierbaum & Pearson + Gordon) Overcrowded and complex story-lines are allowing this series to stagnate, blundering around with no seeming purpose. Enjoyable enough (if you have the patience) but it's time to tell the creators to get the lead out and start tying a few things up. (PCP) **4**

<+++> This book has finally found its feet and the pacing is developing well. With its myriad cast, we still follow what is going on, with the intermingling of the thirtysomething Legion, their juvenile clones, the Dominators and the brilliant S.U.B.S. All this - and there's still even room for some characterisation. (PH-B) **8**

L.E.G.I.O.N. '92 39 <-> (Grant & Kitson + Smith) Everything is resolved satisfactorily, if predictably, in Grant's final issue. Kitson's work always looks better when he handles his own inks, but this is still efficient and straightforward. (JF) **6**

Ms Tree Quarterly 8 <+> (Collins & Beatty) Pregnant P.I. realises that someone is out to kill her unborn child. Final issue - save for an upcoming special - before the title moves to annual status - but which is apparently the choice of creators rather than because of poor sales, though the latter reason would make more sense. In the back-up, Midnight makes way for King Faraday (Cavalieri & Infantino + McLaughlin) in a

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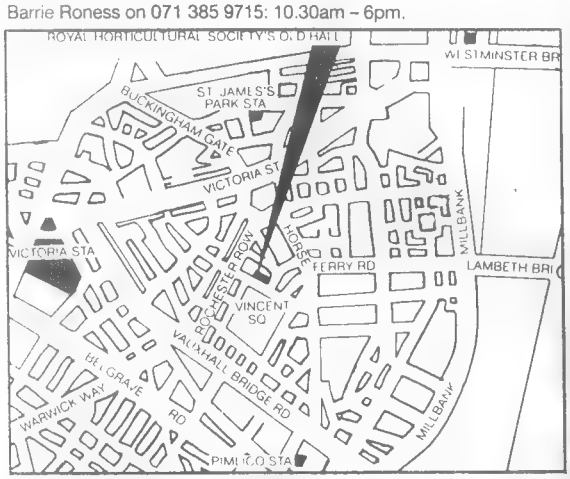

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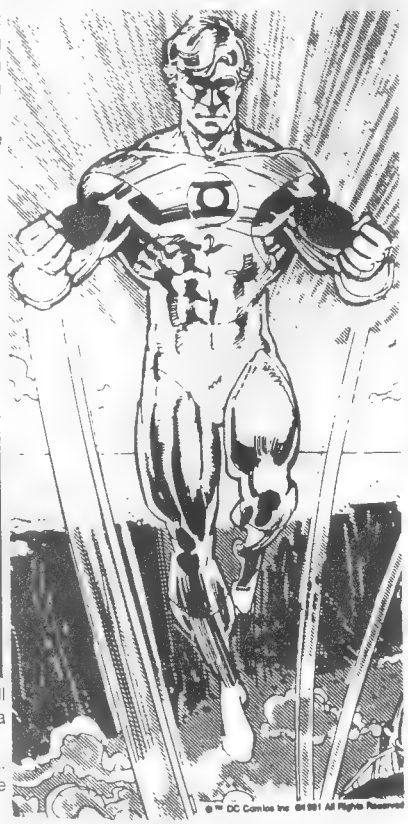

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nonsensical spy tale that defies any logic, supposedly to be continued although no one bothers to say where. (PCP) **6**

New Titans 86 <+> (Wolfman & Grummett + Vey) A truncated lead feature, in which the Titans squabble over the Wildebeest "baby", which does however provide three excellent vignette epilogues (Swan, Maguire and J. Moore, respectively) focusing on Nightwing, Changeling and Terra. (PCP) **7**

<+> What sets this issue above the last is undoubtedly the artwork. The regular, effective team is joined by such dignitaries as Maguire (two pages) and the excellent Moore (who usually does **Star Trek** covers). Their contribution to an already interesting if overstated plot is immeasurable. (JF) **8**

<- -> What a mess! Five different artists, and apparently as many writers too, as this thing is all over the place. Hopefully there was a mix-up in the mail or something, because Wolfman had really rescued this title from the dung-heap. (SM) **5**

Ray 2 <+++> (of 6; Harris & Quesada + Nichols) The new Ray is haunted by the spirit - or otherwise - of the original Golden Age hero. A class act, superior in many ways to much of the over-hyped and so-called "hot" titles glutting the market. (PCP) **9**

Ray 3 <+ -> (of 6; Harris & Quesada + Nichols) The new Ray battles a volcano and discovers that his father was actually an alien. Or is that a lie? An absolute smash hit series that has gone unhyped and somewhat ignored. Well constructed. (PCP) **9**

Sandman 36 <+> (Gaiman & McManus with Talbot + Woch) *A Game of You: Part 5*. Barbie meets the Cuckoo, thus meeting of course herself, and Dream destroys the Land, thereby causing destruction in New York. It's that kind of yarn - not the best of Gaiman's stories but interesting enough in its own way. (PCP) **7**

Sandman 37 <-> (Gaiman & McManus) An excellent comic, now floundering under the weight of extended story-lines that lose half their punch after a couple of issues, and a mediocre artist who is more suited to drawing Bugs Bunny, totally lacking the subtlety that this title requires. The six-part story that mercifully ends here would have made a perfect three-parter, but at least we're told to expect a series of one-offs, which is what Gaiman excels at. (SM) **6**

Shado, Son of the Dragon 1 (of 4; Grell & Lawrence + Morrow) WWII veteran seeks to return a samurai sword to its true owners - enlisting Shado's aid in the search. As you might expect, one of the heirs is a member of the *yakuza*. Grell is on top form, though the visuals are fairly static - at least in this opener. (PCP) **6**

Shadow Strikes 30 <+> (Jones & Whigham + Beatty) Penultimate issue, starring both Lamont Cranston and Kent Allard. But how much of this Shadow origin story is true remains to be seen, given that the tale is being read by Inspector Cardona from Cranston's alleged diaries. And who's the old janitor, lurking in the background? Only the Shadow knows. Perfect period piece in yet another largely ignored series. (PCP) **7**

Silver Age Classics: Action 252 (Binder & Plastino) Girl with super-powers crash-lands on Earth, claims to be Superman's cousin, and, without a shred of real evidence, he accepts her story. The days of innocence! In the lead reprinted feature, Superman meets Metallo for the first time (Berstein & Plastino), backed up with Congorilla tangling with a bunch of rebellious French Foreign Legionnaires (Berstein & Sherman). (PCP) **5**

Silver Age Classics: Adventure Comics 247 (various) Teenagers from the future invite Superboy to join their super-hero club and then find ways of rejecting him in juvenile and dated antics (Binder & Plastino). Green Arrow debunks some supposedly jinxed trick arrows (Papp), while Aquaman makes life tough for himself in a contrived scenario involving a nuclear satellite lost at sea (Fradon). (PCP) **3**

Silver Age Classics: Brave & the Bold 28 (Fox & Sekowsky + Sachs + Giella + Anderson) An alien starfish causes problems for the Justice League of America when it tries to consume the Earth. A true classic landmark issue that led indirectly to the creation of the Fantastic Four and helped preserve a floundering comics industry. (PCP) **8**

Silver Age Classics: Detective Comics 225 (various) Unintentional - or at least one would hope - laughs per minute as various Gotham City residents - including Bruce Wayne and Commissioner Gordon - are given the opportunity to be Batman for a day (Hamilton & Moldoff + Paris). Roy Raymond TV detective tricks a conman out of his ill-gotten gains (Miller & Moreira), while the much reprinted introduction of John Jones (Samachson & Certa) is given another airing. Given the poor quality throughout (save for the Raymond work), it's easy to see

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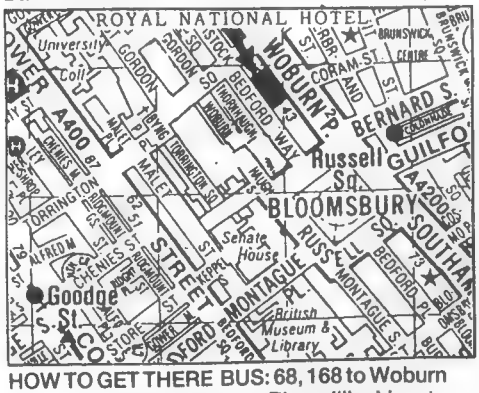

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that one would not get value for money - entertainment-wise at least, on shelling out for an extremely expensive original printing. (PCP) **4**

Silver Age Classics: Detective Comics 327 (various) A turning-point in the career of the Batman that took him directly to the small screen, ultimately to film, and laid the groundwork for his Nineties' popularity. And horrors - Batman uses a gun! A gaffe by new editor Schwartz who forgot the Dark Knight's aversion to firearms (Broome & Infantino + Giella). The Elongated Man also went solo this issue (Fox & Infantino) in a prime crime classic putting today's mediocre Elongated Man stories to shame. (PCP) **8**

Silver Age Classics: Green Lantern 76 (O'Neil & Adams) Social activist Green Arrow teaches Green Lantern that life- and crime - is far from black and white as social relevance came to comics in a big way. Another landmark classic in comics history that paved the way for the far more adult-oriented comics of the Nineties. (PCP) **8**

Silver Age Classics: House of Secrets 92 (various) The several-times reprinted origin of Swamp Thing Alex Olsen is dusted down yet again (Wein & Wrightson), backed up by some run-of-the-mill horror tales of little significance. The back-up blips aside, the lead feature still holds up well today - a sign of a true classic. (PCP) **6**

Silver Age Classics: Showcase 4 (various) The true dawn of comics' Silver Age is reviewed as Flash gains his powers and battles the Turtle (Kanigher & Infantino + Kubert), and meets a man from the future (Broome & Infantino + Kubert). Exhilarating. (PCP) **8**

Silver Age Classics: Showcase 22 (various) Hal Jordan makes his Green Lantern debut in three stories (Broome & Kane + Giella) that underline the adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and shows how tepid the recent *Emerald Dawn* revamp really was. Buy it and compare. (PCP) **8**

Silver Age Classics: Sugar and Spice 99 (Mayer) Previously unpublished issue, forming part of DC's 10-issue tribute to World Colour Printing at Sparta, but which by chance - or fate - becomes a timely tribute to the talents of Sheldon Mayer, who died too young, just before Christmas. Forget the "X" titles, the current "hot" artists and writers. Their true measure will only be determined with the passage of time. **Sugar and Spice** *is* timeless - the work of a real comics genius, appreciated by more adults than kids for its humorous realism. And wouldn't it be nice if DC would do a **Greatest Sugar and Spice** collection, or even Mayer's equally classic series - **Scribbly**. (PCP)**10**

Skull & Bones 1 (of 3; Hannigan) Former Soviet ex-Afghanistan War vet dons the Skeleton costume to weed out corruption in the new Russia. Heavy going, though Hannigan delivers both a compelling script and art, in what promises to be a worthwhile, but probably largely ignored series. (PCP) **8**

Starman 45 <-> (Strazewski & Calimee + Richardson) Final issue - although #46 was advertised - proving that DC knows when to pull the plug on a lost cause. Power Girl and Eclipso guest. Strazewski now gears up for a **Justice Society** series (groan!); Calimee readies a **Space Ranger** mini-series (assuming he learns how to draw perspectives and backgrounds!). A good concept, but wasted. (PCP) **2**

Star Trek 30 <+> (Weinstein & Purcell + Vey) Uhura and Sulu witness a murder and find their own lives on the line as a result. Guest inker Al Vey adds a much-needed boost to the visuals on a title that always entertains, but still has an undefinable element missing, preventing it from becoming a top-drawer series. (PCP) **7**

Superman: Man of Steel 10 <+ -> (L. Simonson & Bogdanove) The tide swings Superman's way in the war against Brainiac, but the arch-fiend has innumerable other devices to unleash. Solid plotting and a nice cover tribute to **Crisis on Infinite Earths**. (AW) **6**

<+> *Panic in the Sky: Fifth Strike*. An interesting story, blending action, humour and pathos, but which essentially covers the same ground as in episodes one through to four. It could have been a classic. It isn't, due to the plot's inability to move along. Still, it's always fun to see a multitude of heroes in one title. (PCP) **8**

Superman: Man of Steel 11 <+> (L. Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) Husque tries to return Emil Hamilton to Earth but only succeeds in sending a flame creature - much to the initial delight - but subsequent despair - of a Metropolis arsonist. A heady dose of non-stop thrills. (PCP) **7**

Superman 66 <+ -> (Jurgens) *Panic in the Sky* culminates in an all-out assault on Warworld while the Earthbound heroes repulse the alien ground troops. A Superman cross-title saga that easily beats DC's mega-cross-overs and also leads into the new JLA. (AW) **6**

<+> *Panic in the Sky: Final Strike*. The Warworld Health Farm burns off excess fat and muscle - or at least that's the impression from the cover as Superman and company appear in all their skeletal glory. In truth, the "final" assault on Brainiac is a rousing climax to a sometimes below-par

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sequence of episodes with a pivotal role for Maxima. (PCP) **9**

Superman 67 <+> (Jurgens & Jurgens + Breeding) Cosmic waste-disposal "locusts" descend on Earth - or at least Metropolis - to clear away the dead in the aftermath of Warworld. Trouble is - there's also the living to clear away. Superbly drawn, but otherwise basic science fiction melodrama. (PCP) **6**

<+ -> In the wake of *Panic in the Sky*, Superman faces an even more powerful threat. Jurgens' input in this title is impressive - and he consistently creates this level of interesting ideas. (JF) **7**

Web 9 <-> (Strazewski & C. Smith + Wray) Drab nonsense with the Web agents following one weak plot-line - and The Fly, Comet and Fireball following another. All part of the *Coming of the Crusaders* story-line, though it's hard to see any connection. (PCP) **2**

Wonder Woman Special 1 (Messner-Loebs & Thompson + Geldhof) Diana takes on a secret identity, teams with Deathstroke, and the series slips firmly into the DC super-hero firmament. After five years of the Perez mythology, it's a disappointment to say the least - and a mistake. (PCP) **4**

MARVEL COMICS

Amazing Spider-Man 362 <+> (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) The Human Torch guests as Spider-Man sets off to enlist Venom's help in stopping Carnage. Like using a chain-saw to crack open a boiled egg. Vacuous violence with a weak script. As for Mark Bagley, his figures are far too small still, but, overall, his art is improving. (RH) **5**

Bill & Ted's Excellent Comic Book 6 <+> (Dorkin & Severin) Very much in keeping with the films' culture, this comic is more imaginative than many in Marvel's roster. The guys are on trial for all their time-travelling and are represented by Time-Thumb, while the baddies are regrouping. Dorkin has the right mix of attitude and humour. (JF) **7**

Conan 256 <+ -> (Thomas & Docherty) Thomas has seemingly settled into a comfortable groove here, while artist Docherty improves with each outing, although he still displays a tendency for cartoony faces. (SM)**8**

Daredevil 304 <-> (Chichester & Garney) Or a day in the life: the Man Without Fear sorts out crimes and misdemeanours left, right and Central Park. A one-off showcase for DD as masked do-gooder (shorn of such encumbrances as sub-plots, civilian identities and a life beyond the costume) makes for light reading... (AW) **5**

Death's Head II 2 (Abnett & Sharp) The restyled robot goes after Reed Richards of the Fantastic Four. The fresh artwork and non-American sensibility mark this comic out from the usual Marvel run, but there are storytelling hiccups, such as why Reed would trust a scientist from AIM and why thirtysomething mother Sue Richards is shown as a mini-skirted 20-year-old. (AW) **7**

Dr Strange 38 <+ -> (Thomas & Isherwood) The "fearsome conclusion" to the *Great Fear* trilogy is anything but, as the three remaining Fear Lords fall out and are despatched by Strange. Unconvincing hokum. (AW) **4**

Excalibur 49 <++> (Davis) Excalibur's very own crisis on infinite earths erupts as the alternative earths start to merge. Davis' impending redefinition of the team and their universe begins by re-introducing all the loose ends of the past near-fifty issues. One of Davis', and Marvel's best. (AW) **8**

Ghost Rider 25 <-> (Mackie & Wagner + Witherby) Double-sized milestone issue with an extra pop-up centrefold. An entertaining enough story, but was the throat-ripping pop-up *really* necessary? As it is, the poor artwork makes it all pretty tame. Texeira will be sorely missed. (JF) **5**

Incredible Hulk 393 <+ -> (David & Keown + Farmer) In this 30th anniversary issue (complete with shiny green cover) the Hulk meets the man responsible for his creation. An average story for a change, but with this team that still means that it's one of Marvel's top titles. Plus pin-up pages of Hulk's past classic battles. What are you waiting for? (JF) **9**

Namor 25 <+ -> (Byrne) The heroes give hell to the H'ylthri in the garden, as indoors all is made clear about Iron Fist's resurrection and his nemesis Master Khan resurfaces. Loose ends and stray characters are all tidied up before artist Byrne packs up his tools with the next issue. (AW) **7**

Namor 26 <- -> (Byrne & J. Lee) The Submariner becomes an amnesiac wild man of the woods for six months while his friends fail to find him. A massive hole in the plot (- why don't they ask Dr Strange, who was helping them only two issues back?) spoils a change of tack (and art) for the book. (AW) **4**

Nick Fury, Agent of Shield 34

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<+ -> (Lobdell & Wyman) Fury's bunch of super-recruits ask Hydra where the missing SHIELD helicarrier is - an interesting notion spoiled by an over-reliance on cliches and gratuitous heroics. A title being rapidly demoted from Marvel's premier league to the third division. (AW) **3**

Nomad 1 (Nicieza & Hawbaker + McKenna) Take Lone Wolf and Cub out of feudal Japan; put them in Nineties America as Nomad and Becky; sprinkle in elements from Green Lantern/Green Arrow, *The Equalizer* and *The Fugitive*; assign artistic chores to yet another Neal Adams clone. Result? Another boring, butt-kicking vigilante comic with nothing new or original to offer. It was more fun studying the gate-fold cover road-map. Big Guns? Big Flop! (PCP) **2**

Jack Monroe wanders the roads of America, trying to find himself. Luckily, he still gets to beat up on people, carrying a baby on his back, so Hawbaker is able to flex his considerable talent in an imaginative and energetic show. (JF) **8**

She-Hulk 38 <+ -> (Byrne) Valentine's Day jollities as Jen tangles with Mahkizmo, male chauvinist piggery personified, until Cupid's arrow changes his attitude towards her (- that of wanting to fight her). With more wit and style than any three ordinary superhero titles, Byrne's **She-Hulk** is a triumph of character (namely hers) over formula. (AW) **8**

She-Hulk 39 <+> (Byrne) More Mahkizmo until, in what is possibly Byrne's best ever plot twist, She-Hulk curbs his murderous ambitions by explaining the facts of life to him. Best line: "With the way comics are these days, all he needs is some styling mousse or clown make-up and he could end up with his own book.". A satirical tour-de-force. (AW) **9**

Spectacular Spider-Man 188 <+> (DeMatteis & Buscema) Another excellent issue. Spider-Man and the Vulture have an aerial show-down that has to be seen to be believed, and Harry Osborne goes off at the deep end. Web-headed highlight of the month - Aunt May kisses Spider-Man. This is Spider-Man for the Nineties, and not to be missed. (RH) **10**

Spider-Man 22 <+++> (Larsen) This issue is saved by a few pages of interesting dialogue between Pete and MJ, particularly with regard to the Web-Slinger's preference in music. But the rest really isn't up to much, with the Sinister Six now just another bunch of gun-toting Rambos and the guest stars just popping up out of nowhere, without even the pretence of an explanation. The last line made me laugh, though. (RH) **6**

Tomb of Dracula 4 <-> (Epic imprint; Wolfman & Colan) Dracula summons the power of the undead while the good guys are unable to stop him. Visually, penciller Gene Colan and inker Al Williamson excel themselves, but Wolfman's plot disintegrates faster than the zombies. (AW) **7**

Uncanny X-Men 287 <+> (Lee, Lobdell & Romita) Ororo's team captures Bishop and Professor X finds another recruit. A long-overdue explanatory issue which, as always, only partly does the job. Guest pencils from former **X-Men** artist John Romita Jr. lend additional clarity. (AW) **6**

Uncanny X-Men 288 <+ -> (Lee, Portacio, Byrne, Lobdell & Kubert + Sienkiewicz) Out on the town, new X-Man Bishop receives his first lesson and doesn't like it. With more writers than ever on the book and Bill Sienkiewicz on inks, the credits look weirder than ever. And for the moment, the title's quality doesn't appear to be suffering as a result of Claremont's departure. (AW) **6**

<+ -> Andy Kubert and Bill Sienkiewicz are both excellent artists in their own right, but make and unlikely pairing. Kubert's work is usually much finer than this, his recent Avengers work was superb. The X-Men are getting rather swamped with time-displaced personnel, and apart from a little character development nothing much progresses. Sadly, the X-books are stagnating. (PH-B) **5**

Warlock 1 (Starlin) Forget the hype - one sure sign of commercial success is a reprint series running alongside the regular one. This one revisits Starlin's earliest **Warlock** forays for the *third* time... Still, at least no pages have been trimmed. (AW) **6**

Warlock and the Infinity Watch 3 <+ -> (Starlin & Leonardi) Warlock unwisely leaves the Infinity Watchers to their own devices to visit his old pal, the High Evolutionary. Starlin's cosmic pilgrim charts a very different course to most, but it's hard to shake the feeling of deja vu. (AW) **5**

Web of Spider-Man 88 <+> (Mackie & Savuik + Delarosa) Richard Fisk shaves his head (after putting on a couple of hundred pounds since last month) and takes over from his dad. The Rose is killed and someone else assumes the mask. Despite Marvel's habit of revitalising old villains using new characters, this book isn't half bad. (RH) **8**

X-Factor Annual 7 (Nicieza & Quesada + Rubinstein + various)

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The story, such as it is, is fair. But what makes this shine is the line-work of rising star Joe Quesada. Energetic and dynamic, he is the only real reason to buy this book. (JF) **7**

X-Factor 78 <++> (David & Stroman + Peterson) This continues to be Marvel's best X-book. David writes with flair and humour, giving powerful insight into the characters. Stylised, but effective artwork and well-balanced action. (PH-B) **8**

X-Force Annual 1 (Nicieza & Capullo, Candelairo + various) Whatever interest had been created is lost in a story that bears no relevance to the current team, as the annual is set in the future, and we all know how unstable *that* is... The art is competent but little more than that. (JF) **3**

X-Force 9 <-> (Nicieza & Liefeld + Panosian) As quickly as it began, the intensity fades. Liefeld's back to huge panels and plot enhancement is lost in the heat of battle. Still, enjoyable for all that. (JF) **6**

X-Men Annual 1 (Nicieza & various) A passable but rather flat story gives way to a host of entertaining artists, all of whom deserve a better plot to work with. (JF) **6**

X-Men 7 <+ -> (Lobdell & Lee) With Wolverine and the main thrust of the past several issues revolving around the clawed psycho, there are no prizes for guessing which team member's past is continued herein and who is rescued, at long last, by the others. Lee's layouts maintain their customary high standard and Lobdell does a fair imitation of the departed Claremont. (AW) **7**

<+> Brilliant! Lee is only providing plot breakdowns again, but Thibert holds his own pretty well. Story-wise, things are resolved as well as they can be, with plenty of action to boot. (JF) **8**

X-Men 8 <- -> (Lee & Lobdell + Thibert) Bishop dominates again - are Marvel pushing him, or what? At least things are livened up by the arrival of Gambit's wife. However, we have to suffer (yawn) the obligatory fight between Bishop and Gambit. (PH-B) **4**

<+ -> Enough about the art, how about the story. Well, an influx of humour - even some slapstick - turns this into more of a carry on. And that's all to the good for a comic that is in danger of taking itself a little too seriously. (JF) **7**

INDEPENDENTS

Akira 33 <++> (Epic; Otomo) The most heated, intense and dynamic comic around, now sadly nearing its conclusion. Otomo's revolutionary art and colouring with his compact narrative all add up to a comic that reads like a movie. (SM) **10**

Archie 400 (Archie Comics; Bolling & Stan G.) Do people really still read **Archie**? Evidently so. As it's lasted over 30 years, no doubt by following the axiom "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". The whole point of this issue is that, after all this time, nothing's changed, with Archie still torn between bouncy Betty and rich Veronica, while looking exactly the same as he always did. Archie comics used to be what you read before you discovered the more "serious" super-hero stuff, though these days the gap between the two isn't nearly as wide as it used to be. (SM) **8**

Beer Nutz 2 (Tundra; Wayno) Rude, crude and utterly irredeemable, these bar-bellied cartoons are like the Norm 'n' Cliffy team-up from the TV series *Cheers* - without the censors. Sexist-drenched toilet humour (farts, logs 'n' dogs), or Robert Crumb meets **VIZ**. Wunnerful! (AW) **8**

The Coming of Aphrodite 1 (Hero; Mallonee & Cruz) Pseudo-macho high-school tomboy believes she has inherited the powers of the goddess Aphrodite. An offbeat idea which doesn't quite come off, mainly due to a slow, laborious script. (PCP) **3**

Creepy 1 (of 4; Harris, distributed by Dark Horse; various) It's change for change's sake here, as after an editorial introduction praising the original run's short story format, they blow it out and have Uncle Creepy and Cousin Eerie starring in an uneasy *Twilight Zone/Creepshow/Rocky Horror* amalgam. The plot involves one-dimensional ring-wearing characters ending up at an old haunted house, and, one by one, predictably getting murdered. (PB) **4**

Dare 1 (Monster; Morrison & Hughes) The former **Revolver** strip that tried to transform Dan Dare into an allegory about the corrupt state of the body politic, with the eponymous hero of the space fleet as a Thatcherite dupe, is repackaged into a comic-book series for the American market. A neat idea that only works if (a) the readers are familiar with the original character, Dare and (b) they are prepared to accept a complete character transplant. Throw in lugubrious pacing and over-stylised artwork and you wonder why they bothered. (AW) **3**

Deadworld 23 <- +> "(Caliber Press; Bloodworth, Thayer, Locke, Winfrey & D. & D. Day) After treading water for a number of issues, we're back on gore-splattered target with King Zombie, who, despite hassle from his home dimension is more determined than ever to

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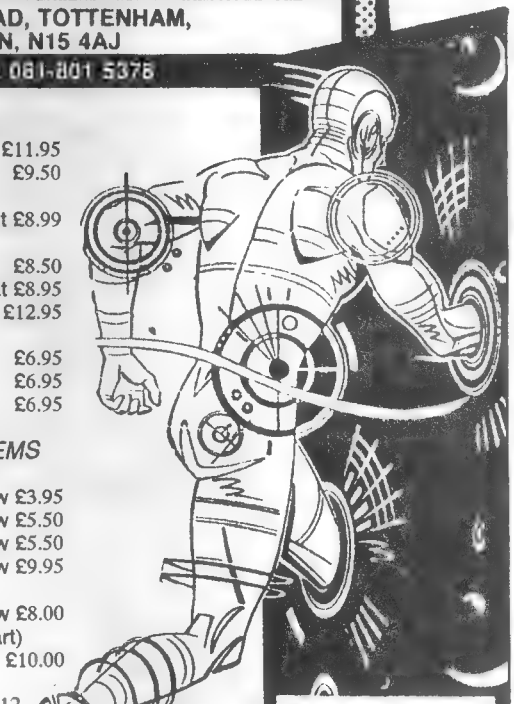

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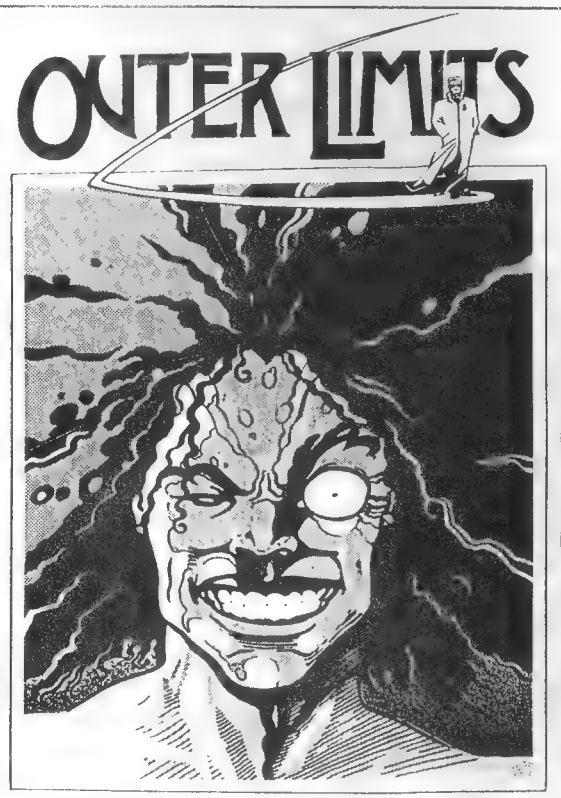

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dismember Joey and Deake. Graphic horror with caustic humour that should be praised for not taking the easy sexual exploitation route often associated with this genre. (PB) **7**

Femforce 46 <+ -> (AC; Black & Tuner + Heike) Lady Luger, totally converted into Rad, takes on the Femforce in a non-stop actioner. Harry Diamond - the David Jansen lookalike - guests. (PCP) **7**

Femforce 47 <+ -> (AC; Black & Black + Heike) Double-plot extravaganza has Rad continuing her battle against Lady Luger and Alizarin Crimson escaping from Limbo. Never a dull moment for La Force Feminine (that being the title for the bad cover pin-up courtesy of Mark Heike). (PCP) **7**

Forbidden Planet 1 (Innovation; Campiti & Gross) Lifeless adaptation of the original screenplay (as opposed to the actual movie) which could improve, but doesn't promise to do so from this episode. Fans of the movie will eat it up, though. (PCP) **4**

Good Girl Art Quarterly 7 <+ -> (AC; various) She-Cat and Yankee Girl get into a fight over who should replace Dragonfly in the Span-XX modelling job (Heike & Roberts). Yankee Girl, Sky Girl, Miss Masque and Phantom Lady reprints also feature (including art by Ralph Mayo and Matt Baker) rounds out the pretty much full-colour anthology. (PCP) **8**

Great American Western Reprints: Sunset Carson 1 (AC; various) A tribute to former Republic movie star Sunset Carson in an oddity for AC - all new material, rather than the usual archive reprints, and colour throughout. A mixture of western genre and costumed super-villain makes up the lead feature when Carson tangles with The Rattler (Black & Ensign + Heike). The second feature plays heavily on the supernatural with Carson teaming up with The Haunted Horseman in a hunt for stolen gold (Black & Ayers + Black). Smiley Burnett - renamed Garnett for this volume - guests. Photo and text features round out a visual treat. (PCP) **8**

Green Hornet 7 <-> (Now; Dixon & T. Smith + Mowry) Two brain-dead thugs steal a super-tank and use it to total the Black Beauty. Dull and predictable with dialogue to cringe over. (PCP) **3**

Harbinger 5 <+ -> (Valiant; Shooter & Jackson + Lapham + Dixon) Rebel Harbinger team invades Harada's Dallas complex, save a life and meet Solar. Entertaining enough, but after five issues still difficult to see where this series is heading. (PCP) **5**

Harbinger 6 <+ -> (Valiant; Shooter & Lapham + Mayo) One of the kids dies - and quite violently, too. But this *is* comics, so it remains to be seen whether it's a permanent development. After a slow start, this series is becoming a worthwhile read. (PCP) **7**

Hate 8 <++> (Fantagraphics; Bagge) Buddy Bradley gets talked into becoming manager for a Seattle grunge band and, as their success becomes all the more imminent, his personal life goes ever further downhill. You won't have to take precautions to avoid wetting yourself with laughter this issue, but anyone who's had any run-in with the music biz will find themselves nodding in agreement, or red-faced that their secrets are out of the bag (no pun intended!). To be read while listening to Monty Python's *Contractual Obligation* album. (PB) **9**

Idol 1 (of 3; Epic; Jones & Mattsson, Randall) If you liked Epic's **Hollywood Superstars** of about a year ago, then you'll probably like this, 'cause it's pretty much the same thing - evil doings on the movie set, here involving a secret government research project. Enjoyable fluff, with some fairly nice art by Ron Randall (though it falls short of his lovely painted cover). (SM) **8**

Jungle Girls 4 <+ -> (AC; various) A special effects genius seeks revenge on a movie crew by abducting an eleven-foot gorilla and replacing it with a robot. Routine melodramatics starring the eight-foot-tall Tara (Black & Ayers + Black + Heike). Baker, Lubbers and Webb are the creators on the equally routine Tiger Girl, Camilla and Sheena reprints. (PCP) **5**

Jungle Girls 5 <+ -> (AC; various) When you've read one jungle queen story, you've pretty much read them all, as this collection of Rulah (uncredited) and Tiger Girl (Baker, re-inked by Black) testify. That said, they were popular comics for many years, though it's hard to believe that a substantial audience exists today. (PCP) **5**

Magnus Robot Fighter 12 <+> (Valiant; Perozich & Shooter + Mayo) The problem of repetitive story-lines, which dogged the original **Magnus** run - and which has begun to seep in to the current series - is turned aside when Magnus travels back in time to prehistoric America; a land occupied by humans and dinosaurs, and the setting for Gold Key's Turok Son of Stone. Turok and his sidekick Anda join forces with the robot fighter to repel an invasion of the "lost land" by refugees from Magnus' own time. Mayo cleverly mimics the original art style of Alberto Giolliti. If you like dinosaur stories, you'll love this one. (PCP) **8**

Magnus Robot Fighter 13 <-> (Valiant; Shooter & Perozich + Colon) Magnus battles I-A's original mutates - but whose side should he really be on? Could be good, but Colon's painted art is unsuitable and produces the usual muddy, hard-to-determine visuals. (PCP) **4**

Miracleman 2 <+ -> (of 3; Eclipse;

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Mr Derek G. Skinn, Editor,
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16th March 1992

Dear Mr. Skinn,

Congratulations on your first nationally distributed issue (March '92), and many, many thanks for the publicity you gave our own first issue therein.

COMICS INTERNATIONAL is obviously the best place to be seen - since your review appeared we've had a steady stream of enquiries by phone and letter, both from fans and shops. We've also got U.K. distribution via Titan and U.S. distribution via Diamond, and are making contact with other distributors, too.

From a standing start, you've helped us pick up speed. We know we have a terrific magazine, but your words have convinced other people we're worth a look. When we can afford to advertise, you'll be top of our list. Meanwhile, many, many thanks.

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various) Miracleman through assorted what if? and how would? instalments tries to figure out what it is we humans want. It's an excuse to have guest creators, despite which #1 was a pleasurable experience. This, regrettably, is lacking somewhat, and only Dick Forman's *The Janitor* script holds up. The art has an overall feeling of being rushed or penned by inexperienced hands, with regular **Miracleman** artist Mark Buckingham's pages being the noticeable exception. (PB) **5**

One-Shot Western 1 (Caliber; various) Rather more than a one-shot is fired in this three-saddle opus anthology, in yet another brave attempt to revive the western genre. Mark Lamport, Don Secrease, Rich Burchett and Sean Ryan pool their not inconsiderable talents in tales of revenge (*The Savage Sisters*) and scams (Joe Wyatt a.k.a. Torn Path) and a fugitive gun-slinger (Lucas Boyd), providing adequate entertainment en route. (PCP) **8**

Real Stuff 5 <+++> (Fantagraphics; D. P. Eichorn & various) If, after over a decade of hard work, Harvey Pekar at last saw some critical acknowledgement, becoming the measure by which autobiographical comics were set in the late Eighties, then Eichorn may well have that individual voice that stands out from the pack in the Nineties.

Illustrated by a choice of artists which benefits the individual strips' moods, **Real Stuff** offers Sixties' survival with a few hang-ups. Those visual/ verbal reminiscences show his bewilderment at the situations he finds or lands himself in. He either takes the upper hand - when given the chance - as in *S!!?*, or ducks his head in the sand, waiting for others to handle matters, as in *Three in a Bed*, where an old friend's marital relationship is not as open as he'd like others to believe. A title well worth taking time to read. (PB) **8**

Re-animator: Dawn of the Re-animator 1 (Adventure; Spangler & Malaga) Picking up from the prologue of the movie, Herbert West attempts to vindicate himself of Professor Gruber's murder. Meanwhile, other parties seem to be having more success raising the dead. Not as good as the previous mini-series so far, but the plot may have a few worthwhile twists in store. (PB) **5**

Shadowman 1 (Valiant; Shooter & Englehart + Lapham + Rubenstein) New Orleans jazz musician survives an attack by a female vampire which spurs him on to become a vampire-hunter. Well, it would, wouldn't it? Average as introductions go, though in Engelhart's hands it can only get better - and it needs to. (PCP) **4**

Shadowman 2 <-> (Valiant; Perozich, Shooter & Lapham + Ryder) When you've seen one Voodoo Practitioner you've seen 'em all, and this is no exception. Even 'Stainless' Steve Englehart only stayed for one issue. (PCP) **4**

Solar Man of the Atom 9 <+ -> (Valiant; Shooter & Windsor-Smith) Last but one instalment of Solar's origin in glorious Windsor-Smith technicolour. Elsewhere, in an uncredited lead story which has Shooter's leaden fingerprints all over it, Solar has to restrain an infant super-man. (AW) **6**

Twilight Zone 5 <-> (Now; C. Wagner & Newell + Mowry + DeZuniga) A coma victim exacts vengeance on Judge and Doctor for keeping her on life-support instead of allowing her to die. Run-of-the-mill hokum. (PCP) **2**

Usagi Yojimbo 33 <+ -> (Fantagraphics; Sakai) Ghost-town spectre haunts remaining citizens before Usagi discovers it's the result of an uncompleted ritual. Based on a plot provided by Sergio Aragones. (PCP) **7**

X-O Manowar 4 <-> (Valiant; Englehart, Layton & Manley) Our prehistoric protagonist indulges in fisticuffs for no good reason with the Harbinger team. Behind Barry Windsor-Smith's enticing cover lurks writing that is not so much wooden as petrified, with artwork to match. (AW) **1**

Youngblood 1 (Image; Liefeld) Whoops! Now we know how the company got its name. Without professional script, colouring, lettering or editing, you have little more than the image... and the hype. Liefeld's is tarnished here in a lacklustre fanzine effort he should have left in the bottom drawer. But will he get his day job back? (DGS) **3**

Young Indiana Jones Chronicles 1 (Dark Horse; Barry & Barry + Springer) Nineteen-year-old Indy meets Lawrence of Arabia and Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings. Superb action ensues. Based on a story by George Lucas. (PCP) **7**

FLEETWAY

Judge Dredd Megazine vol 2, number 1 (various; 99p) One of the UK industry's few commercial success stories, the new style fortnightly **Megazine** promises great things, especially in Devlin Waugh -- the catholic priest with a Schwartzenegger body and the head of Terry-Thomas. The return of Dredd co-creator Carlos Ezquerra on the title's third strip, *Armageddon*, compensates for the talented but inappropriately selected Yan (**Blast**) Shimony on the Judge's *Texas City Sting* lead strip. While Marvel UK's new **Overkill** takes itself far too seriously, the **Megazine** maintains its unique blend of absurdly exaggerated action and dry humour and is let down only by the fannish 7 pages of 'Mega File' padding

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which deny the massive inventory of material the editorial staff claim to have amassed. Or had budgetary cuts slipped in? (DGS) **8**

Mr Men and Little Miss 14 (various) On the one hand, this could be taken as truly more surreal than **Doom Patrol** could ever hope to be, on the other the sexual stereotyping of Little Miss Plump, Neat, Fickle, Bossey et al would make me think twice about buying this for any future offspring. (PB) **2**

Thunderbirds 10-11 <+> (Fennell & Bellamy, Kite and Bleathham) With two reprint tales from **TV 21** and one new one per issue, readers apparently objected strenuously about the Frank Bellamy pages being cut back in favour of inferior new material, so Fleetway Editions hastily (and rightly) doubled the Bellamy quotient. Bargain classics. (AW) **8**

2000AD Action Special (various; £1.75) **2000AD**'s long heralded and much vaunted revival of "old-time" super-hero characters from older Fleetway titles manages to be totally cynical throughout. Lacking any trace of humour, its monotonous approach portrays one-time childhood heroes as easily manipulated dupes, self-deluded fools or psychotic monsters.

While partially redeemed by the excellent artwork of John Burns (Senior) and Sean Phillips, and the scripts of the mildly entertaining *Steel Claw* and *Cursitor Doom* segments, any hope for revivals is destroyed here. With a £1.75 price tag, approach with caution, and if you're feeling nostalgic, avoid it completely. (CB) **5**

MARVEL UK

Overkill 1 (various; 55p; fortnightly) I really hoped this one would work, Fleetway needs some serious competition. But it's a disappointing mix, with only the **Aliens**-style camaraderie and approach of *Warheads* (Vince & Erskine) and the potential of *Hell's Angel* (Jaye & Senior) standing out in a very dated one-track anthology. The creators are obviously working for the American market, judging by their ignoring the changes in style, approach and experimentation that have taken place in the last ten years in British comics titles.

With its unappealing title logo and brash hyperbole, **Overkill** cannot hope to attract mainstream '90s teenage comics readers, but only the far smaller number of diehard Marvel fans who cannot obtain the US editions and are attracted by the huge and off-putting *Marvel Comics* cover emblem and the needlessly convoluted infra-structure.

If the far more reader-friendly **Meltdown** and **Havok** could survive only a handful of issues with generally unseen material, how can this title be expected to fare better? Despite five editors (!), the prospects are worsened by the abundance of mistakes, poor writing skills, and awful subbing.

With the imminent cancellation of the company's **Complete Spider-Man**, one is left wondering how long it will be before Marvel UK is totally absorbed into the American operation as a foreign sales and talent spotting arm only.

Such a development would be a terrible waste, but unless Marvel UK gains its own commercial identity and direction, it can never hope to challenge Fleetway and Thomson. (DGS) **5**

DC THOMSON

The Dandy 2625 (humour anthology; various) *Desperate Dan* wastes two colour pages to tell readers about the free plastic 'copter stuck to the front page before the fun's allowed to begin. Inside are established favourites alongside new strips (at least to this thirty-something reviewer), drawn in lively cartoon styles matched with simple, yet effective scripts.

Well done to Thomsons, for including four, of what we could characterise as "naughty girl" strips, but even more so for the centre spread of *Cuddles & Dimples*, an outrageous baby tale that I never have imagined seeing here in a million years. (PB) **8**

Twinkle 1260 (anthology; various) Assorted attractive art styles painted in various media, or a choice of b&w via line, tone and wash accompany well-constructed, simple stories from which many fan-favourite scripters could learn a few lessons. Special mention to *Cuddles & Co.* concerning a pet dog of an Asian family - is this a comic first? Good stuff, meant for little girls, while our sons are offered... what? (PB) **9**

UK INDEPENDENTS

The Chipmunks 5 (Redan; various) Containing two comic strips with basic moral overtones, one of which is the old "boy who cried wolf" adage. They offer little plot-wise, but are drawn with eye-catchingly bold, slick inking (American reprints?). There is also a text story, games and pop-up pages. As a whole, the title meanders in its style of written English, leaving one wondering, even without it being a nursery title, what its intended age range is meant to be. (PB) **4**

Magic Monkey 1 (Leung Publications; Dr. L. Ting & A. Reid, J. Li & L.S. Chan) An English version of a popular series concerning genetically engineered animals based on Chinese legends in a futuristic setting. Monkey King and co. have to save Antland from Captain Shark in a story

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that's all rather Saturday morning cartoonish. Still, it's intriguing that Fleetway Editions, future UK publishers of TMNTurtles and Toxic Crusaders are here denoted as "sole UK distributor". (PB) **2**

SMALL PRESS

Famous Names Again (Hand; Hand; 25p from Martin Hand, 7 New River Crescent, Palmers Green, London N13 5RD.) If Martin Hand can draw, so can anyone - which is exactly the point he's trying to make. If you get an idea then whack it down, photocopy it, pass it around and to blazes with technique. Art for the people: it's a punkish and appealing principle, very much part of the Eighties small press tradition. Like Jamie Reid and other punk Situationists, Hand twists and warps popular cultural references to dislocating effect. In this instance, little cameo pictures are captioned with imaginary bios: "Mary Quant is Siamese twins". Enjoy it for its good humour and wait for his appearance in, of all things, **A1**! (MK) **5**

Girlfrenzy 2 (Girlfrenzy; £1.50 from Girlfrenzy, BM Senior, London WC1N 3XX.) A collection of comics and articles by, for and about women, which attacks patriarchy rather than men in general. Editor Erica Smith has a tough, cheerful style and a good line in no-nonsense criticism of media stereotyping. The strips range from professional (Robbins, Della Porta) to d.i.y. scribbles which convey ideas clearly and effectively without resorting to technical gloss (Lee Kennedy's page is a highlight). A fine example of the rise of women's comics in the small press. (MK) **6**

Panic Comics 1 (Alleged Literature; Dennis; £1.00 from Alleged Literature, 4 Randolph St. Oxford OX4 1XY.) An "instant" comic, assembled during the five days following the Caption '92 convention by co-organiser Jeremy Dennis. Scrawled with marker pens and photocopied, it conveys the effect of post-con. blues on a naturally volatile personality with a raw emotional power which no amount of detailed line-work could possibly achieve, and from which printing would probably detract. One of the most brutally honest autobiographical comics I've yet seen. (MK) **7**

Pavement 0 (Pavement; anthology; 80p from Peter Pavement, c/o 5 Park Rd. Redhill, Surrey) This comic exemplifies a small press *raison d'etre*. It's assembled by a group of enthusiasts who've realised that they can write and draw whatever they want, photocopy it and sell it to anyone who's interested. Pavement's own strips are fantasy-oriented yet concerned with planetary destruction. Chris Tappenden contributes some gag pages and a bit of escapism for disaffected dole-ites. Adeline Wartner's full page pictures are striking (and non-sequential, but neither are Mighty Marvel Pin-Up Pages). Rounded out by an interview with Bob "Sav Soundness" Lynch and a small press review page, it offers an affordable and completely executed glimpse of current small press activity. (MK) **6**

Tales of Skittle-Sharpeners and Thimble-Riggers 2 (To Yield Press; Peck, Hogg; £1.30 from Chris Butler (Flat above)4 Wostenholm Rd. Nether Edge, Sheffield S7 1LJ.) The two strips and a prose piece contained in this title are diverse but uniformly well done. *Thieves* is an odd, laconic serial about guilty secrets (I think), drawn with attention to realistic detail. *Ortur Nang and Crayfish*, scourers of the countryside in search of a wheelbarrow (!?), appear in a page of rich, language-savouring text and an absurd, aptly cartoony strip. An eccentric, charming comic in the mode - and the standard - of Fantagraphics' output. (MK) **8**

Talking to Leonard 1 (Lobe Press; Middleton; £1.75 from Richard Middleton, c/o 35 Victoria Mount, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4PU.) A powerful account of domestic repression, told with skill and originality. Dialogue is dispensed with; captions convey the thoughts of a brutalised middle-aged housewife as she comes to terms with what marriage has done to her. Technically assured layouts, finely etched and stippled art and a mysterious sub-plot create a sense of unease which culminates in a genuinely disturbing cliff-hanger. Excellent. (MK) **9**

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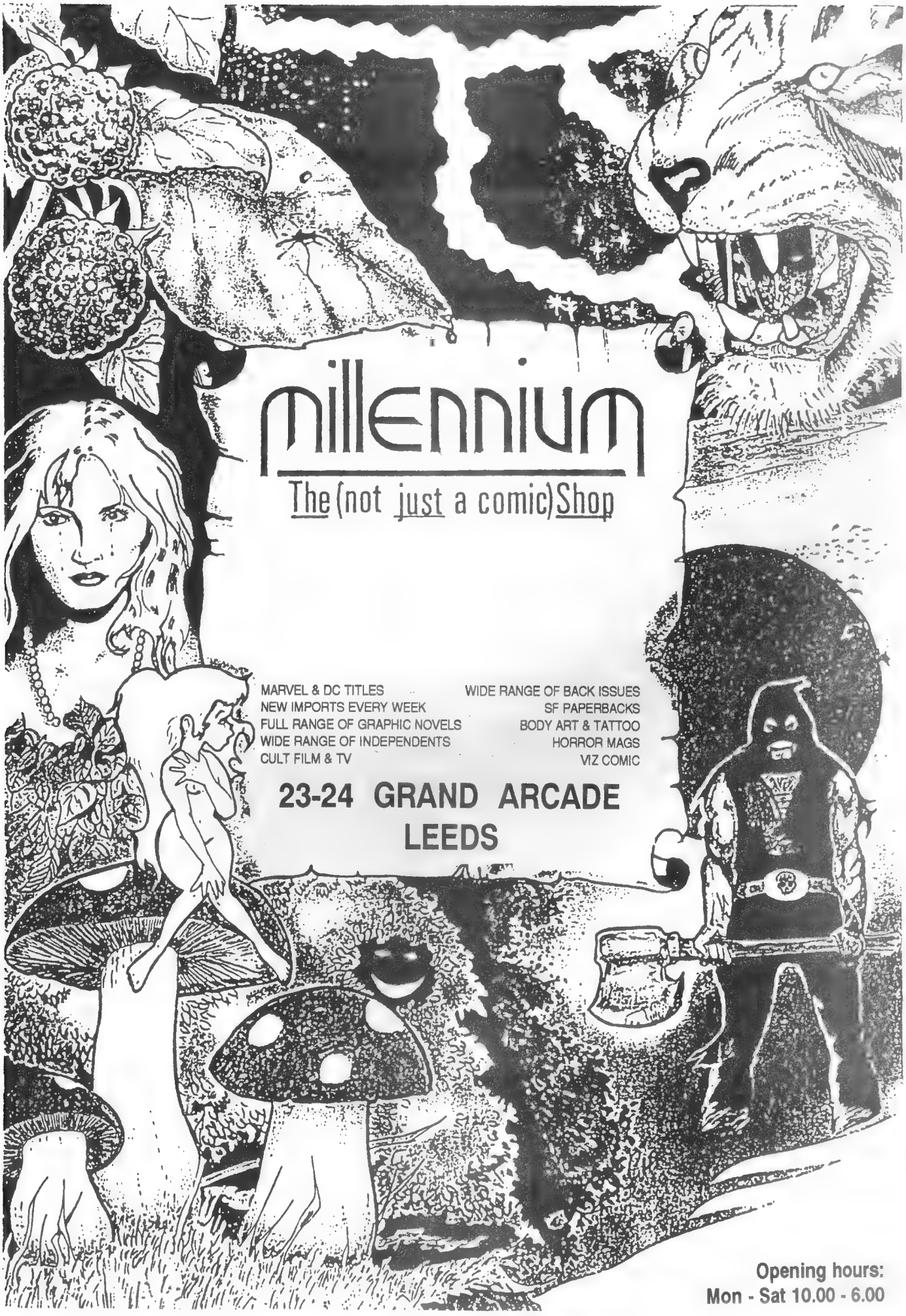
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The DC Challenger

Sandman is rapidly becoming DC's most bankable book, not only commanding rapidly rising price increases of **X-Men** proportions but also eclipsing Marvel's mutants in many dealers' eyes.

Of particular note is the critically acclaimed "Seasons of the Mist" storyline (#21-27). The plot, which tells of what happens when Lucifer gives up the lease on Hell, has caught the imagination of comic fans and dealers alike. Prices have already been seen around the country for all seven issues at upwards of £5 each.

Remember when we told you about **New Mutants #87** and how it started rocketing in price in the States? Now it's **Sandman**'s turn: #21 has been selling in America for as much as $30. Over here £10 could well be the asking price by the summer.

Ms Marvel #24

Sabretooth, Marvel's current villain of villains, is due shortly for an unlikely appearance in the seasonal anthology title **Marvel Superheroes**. There he fights that Seventies siren Ms Marvel in a story from Sabretooth's early days. But it would be, it was originally destined for the pages of **Ms Marvel #24**, a title which the ancient among us will remember finished with #23.

Now knowing how bankable Wolverine's arch enemy is, had Marvel been less over zealous in cancelling Carol Danvers' adventures, another turkey may well have become a game old bird.

Past Images

Jim Lee may well be mirroring his work on the **X-Men** over at Image Comics but it certainly hasn't hurt the rush for his Marvel books. But it's the **Alpha Flight** title which is causing the most interest, an enigma which Lee himself cannot understand. At a recent convention when given a copy of **Alpha Flight #51** to sign he commented, "God, this was terrible AND Whilce (Portacio) inked it."

Even if he thinks the book was bad, the fans obviously don't. The actual copy of **Alpha Flight 51** signed at the convention had just been bought for £6.

New shops for old

"It was the worst of times, it was the best of times" ... at least in comics! Specialist retailers are continuing to close down, due to the continuing recession in combination with overstocking much hyped new titles. Over the last few months we've lost original **Speakeasy** publisher Dick Hansom's *Acme Comics Shop* as the company went into liquidation (though now continuing under new management). That brave experiment in up-market comics retail, *Meanwhile* bit the dust last month, while long-time Liverpool comic shop *Chapter One* has also closed. *The Comic Dead*, based in Enfield, Middlesex, came and went within a matter of months.

Hertfordshire's *Uncanny Comics* has "gone away", and Swindon's *New Era* proved to be equally unsuccessful.

But at the same time, new retailers are springing up to take their places and, lest any cynic comment "They'll learn", it should be noted that several existing shops are opening new branches.

Stateside continues its expansion with new branches opening soon in London, Birmingham and Edgware, Middlesex. Relative newcomer *Spaced Out* is now trading from four different bases. North London's *White Light* promises a second branch soon and *Fantasy Workshop* has closed one branch only to open up another.

Where will it all end?

Getting into Action

Action Comics featuring that universally known hero, Superman, may well become a sought-after comic again. Jackson "Butch" Guice, whose Steranko-esque style made **SHIELD #21-24** and 26 so popular, has taken over the artwork. But don't expect the other titles to do the sort of business this one has been doing or is likely to do.

At a recent American convention Guice was approached by Rob Liefeld and Jim Valentino and asked if he would like to be part of the Image Universe. Guice apparently answered "I'd rather draw Superman" and, over heard by

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Mike Carlin and Roger Stern of Action Comics, was immediately offered the job.

Solar Eclipses

Regular Valiant readers received a shock last month when wanting to pick up their copies of **Solar, Man of the Atom 10**. Many comic shops have reported quickly selling out of the issue with regular readers often having to go without. Why? Surely not because of Barry Windsor Smith's ultimate in minimalist covers (the only art on the all-black cover being Barry's BWS signature!).

We've been predicting that Valiant is a company to watch for months. Never mind the Image-makers, Shooter's been building a tight and cohesive '90s version of the Marvel Universe for the last year and a half and doing it right.

Just as Stan Lee started with a couple of titles, a tight editorial style and a few has-been heroes (Torch, Namor and Captain America), Shooter's successfully done the same, building a line based on Gold Key's old *Magnus* and *Solar* which is growing slowly and carefully.

Shops which, a few months back, had dozens of Valiant back issues are now finding customers asking for anything from the company, but being turned away empty-handed.

Don't say we didn't warn you.

Jim Lee sleeper

A potential ITMA-ite from the Wirral caught us all on the hop last month, advising that Jim Lee fans should check out the *Atlantis Attacks* **Daredevil Annual 4**.

Reminding us that it should have been numbered 5, as the previous 1975 annual was also number 4, he pointed out a rarely mentioned 6-page Jim Lee strip tucked away in the book.

Further enhancing the comic is a 10 page strip with pencils by Whilce Portacio. While our correspondent added "This one is overlooked by fans and retailers alike and can still be obtained at cover price", the **UK Price Guide** proved itself to be on the case. The new edition credited the two fan-favourite artists and suggested a £2.50 value.

First degree Byrnes

John Byrne, a man known for speaking his mind, recently commented that it was hardly surprising artist Jim Lee was unable to work to deadline on **X-Men** as he had been attending "just about every convention in the northern hemisphere".

Hulk smashes

Not wanting to say "we told you so", but... The Hulk achieved a notable feat with #393. Since the launch of the new **X-Men** title, one-time top seller **Uncanny X-Men** had settled into the No.2 perch in the Diamond Advance orders list charts. But with #393, **The Hulk** has pushed it down to the #3 spot.

Because of reorder demand, **Hulk 393** has already gone back to the printers for a second edition as speculators have been demanding more. So what took so long? We have been giving the team of David and Keown some of highest possible praise since this column began, and at last the comic buying world has turned issues 367 to date into collectors' items rivalling any X-book.

But it is doubly ironic that Dale Keown, who first made his name at Malibu Graphics, should decide to remain at Marvel to work on **The X-Men**, when several of the so-called "bratpack" have left the book for Malibu's Image line.

Hulk smashes 2

Staying with the Hulk, it seems that this year's **Hulk Annual** is a huge success, with a second printing on the cards. Marvel must be hoping that this will bode well for the remaining "Return of the Defenders" annual crossovers, as last year's "Subterranean Wars" annual storyline saw **Hulk Annual** apparently outselling the four other annual tie-ins two to one.

Final Flight

Alpha Flight has been in the news all too often lately. First we had the long-overdue revelation that Northstar is Gay, and then the story that scripter Scott Lobdell was being replaced by new editor Bobby Chase.

While neither Lobdell or Marvel had made an event out of Northstar's self-outing, the media's reaction apparently upset senior management. Though the issue rejuvenated the title's sales, it is believed such stories in the part-public company are considered a no-no and could be detrimental to the share values.

Exit homo-superior, enter homophobia.

Despite this, it seems that the now historic #106 has become a somewhat mega-hot item, with prices already as high as £5.00 to £7.50 depending on where in the country you live.

Curiosity value over death, birth and "naughty" bits is not so uncommon in this current age of single hot issues. However, what is very alarming is the demand from comic fans for this particular issue. Dealers have reported fans "fighting" over copies, predominantly among younger readers. Is it only over the investment value, or should the predominantly male comic fans

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Big Time Return

It seems Scott Lobdell just can't stay out of the news. Now writing the two major X-books, he has already started a commotion by taking us back in time to the original "strangest teens of all" in what has retroactively become their second ever adventure. In the artist-jam **Excalibur Special #2** Lobdell has Xavier's gifted youngsters travelling to England, and then being zapped into the future and meeting up with the present day Excalibur Team. This would not be such a bad idea if it wasn't against Marvel's own house rule that all super-heroes travelling into the future only ever meet an alternative possible future and never the actual one (which would kill any suspense). Thanks go to Scott for totally destroying Marvel logic, and he's only just begun.

Lobdell, 3 of 3

That famous writer of Marvel comics and regular name in this column (at least for the last several paragraphs) Scott Lobdell has an even bigger secret up his sleeve. He is not a writer by trade (no great surprise there) but is actually a stand up comedian. Many fans will undoubtedly believe that he hasn't forgotten his original career, as most of his scripts read like bad jokes!

More Marvel Firsts

More pick-hits from the Merseyside chapter of ITMA include:

● For **Quasar** fans: the character's first costumed appearance is in **Captain America 217** (back when he was known as *Marvel Boy*, before his two second thought of changing it to MarvelMAN. Nah, it would never catch on).

Wendell Vaughn decides on the name Quasar in a cameo in **Incredible Hulk 234** (but sticks with the same costume), while **Avengers Annual 18** (*Atlantis Attacks*) has a Bagley strip giving the character's origin and pre-dates **Quasar 1**.

● For those of you unloading your recently acquired **Luke Cage Powerman** comics and looking for the next potential hot book, if **Silver Sable's #1** gimmick cover brings enough attention, our Pick-hit is **Web of Spider-Man Annual 5**, featuring the first solo Silver Sable story.

● But if Spider-Man himself is more to your taste, while McFarlane's *Venom* issues, #315-317 have peaked around the $20 to $25 mark in America, get in fast on the *Carnage* three-parter in issues 330 to 333. Some are even speculating #330 will be the next #129.

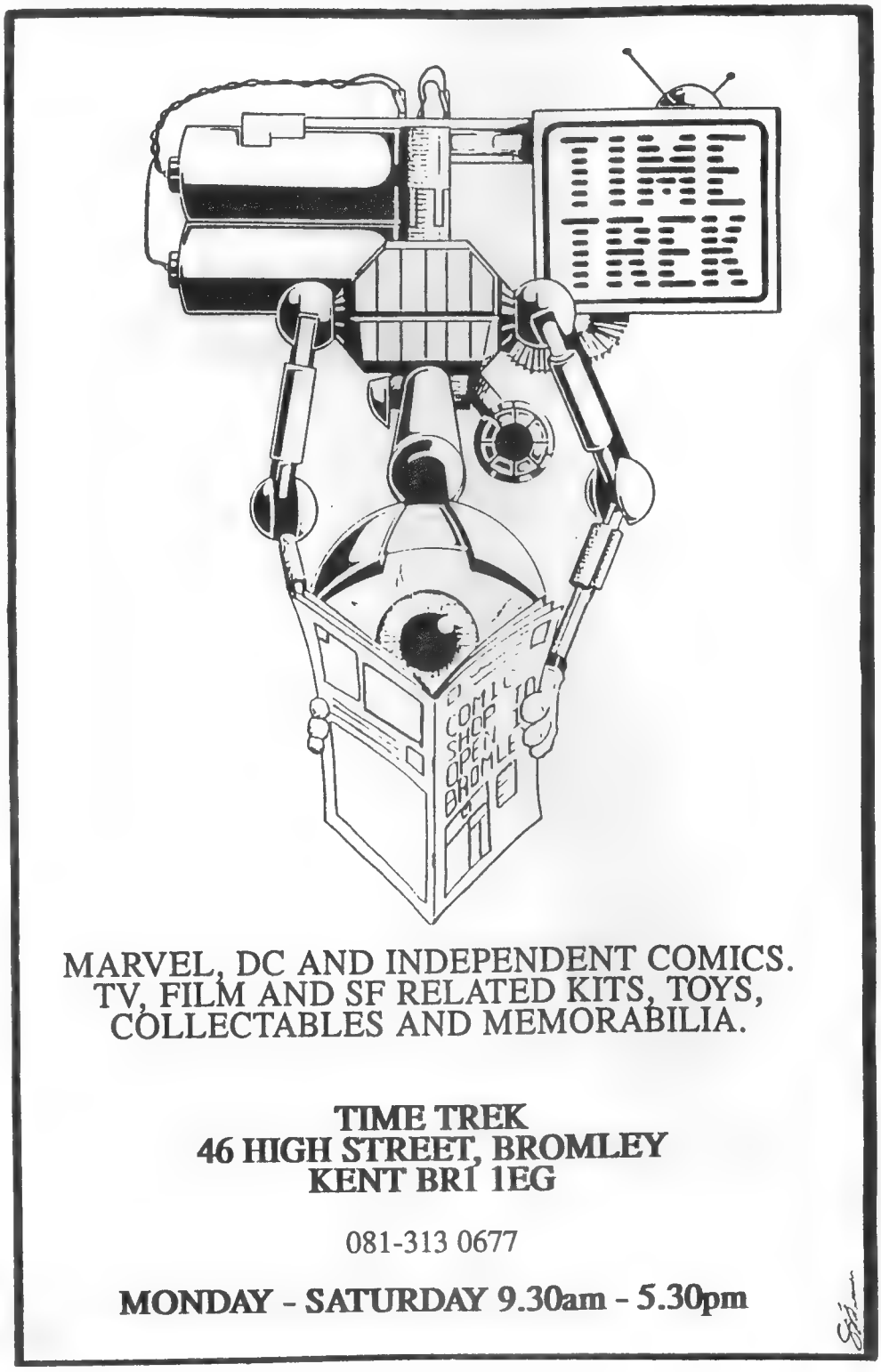
Hot 50 Update

Regardless of the recession, there have been some interesting changes in our *Top 50 Hot Books Since 1971* chart.

As before, the following is an average sale price, with sources being 8 current mail order catalogues, 3 Price Guide magazines and two reference books.

1 Platinum Spider-Man (=)
2 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 1 (+1)
3 Star Wars 1 (35c cover) (+4)
4 Incredible Hulk 181 (+1)
5 Amazing Spider-Man 129 (+1)
6 Cerebus 1 (-2)
7 Gobbledy Gook 1 (early TMNT) (+1)
8 Gobbledy Gook 2 (early TMNT) (+1)
9 Giant Sized X-Men 1 (+3)
10 Marvel Preview 2 (Punisher) (+6)
11 Uncanny X-Men 94 (+2)
12 Spider-man Torment tpbk (Diamond) (-10)
13 Visions 1 (1st Flaming Carrot) (-2)
14 House of Secrets 92 (1st Swamp Thing)
15 Cerebus 2 (=)
16 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2 (+1)
17 Justice League 3 (test cover) (-3)
18 Amazing Spider-Man 122 (+3)
19 Sandman 8 (test printing) (+5)
21 Iron Man 55 (1st Thanos) (+16)
22 Cerebus 3 (-4)
23 Green Lantern/Green Arrow 76 (+2)
24 Marvel Super Action 1 (Punisher) (+3)
25 Spider-Man 100
26 Astonishing Tales 26 (1st Deathlok)
27 Marvel Spotlight 5 (1st Ghost Rider)
28 Iron Fist 14 (1st Sabretooth) (+21)
29 Love & Rockets 1 (-19)
30 Firestorm 61 (test cover) (-11)
31 Savage Tales 1 (1st series) (-5)
32 Amazing Spider-Man 135 (-4)
33 Incredible Hulk 180 (-4)
34 Amazing Spider-Man 121 (-4)
35 Cerebus 4 (-15)
36 Cerebus 21 (-13)
37 Dark Knight Returns 1 (-3)
38 Ghost Rider v1 1
39 Giant-Size Spider-Man 4 (Punisher)
40 New Mutants 87 (1st Cable) (+2)
41 Vampirella Annual 2
42 Groo Special 1
43 Fantasy Quarterly 1 (1st Elfquest) (-12)
44 Cerebus 5
45 Incredible Hulk 182 (+1)
46 Marvel Super Special 1 (Kiss)
47 Marvel Team-Up 1 (-2)
48 Punisher (mini) 1 (-10)
49 Cerebus 6
50 Uncanny X-Men 95 (-11)

Despite the TMNT fall in mass popularity, the first three issues continue to rise in value and with



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the **Platinum Spider-Man** special edition continuing to fall in value, it's conceivable that the Turtles will regain their #1 spot.

Marvel villains seem to be the biggest riser in the last six months, with **Spider-Man 122** (Death of the original Green Goblin) up 3, **Iron Man 55** (1st Thanos) up 16, and **Iron Fist 14** (Sabretooth) up a staggering 21, making it the most dramatic increase of all.

Cerebus now has seven spots in the Hot 50, instead of five last time, while **Spider-Man** holds firm with nine.

While Marvel still dominates with 50% of the titles, the indie quotient remains healthy at 17 while DC has only 6, with nothing of note moving up in the #51-100 placing.

The most recent case of volatile values, **New Mutants 87**, seems to have slowed down and is one of only two comics between #29 and 50 to have bettered its previous position at all.

Finally, this chart illustrates perfectly the fact that values can drop in value as well as rise. Of the 50 books, 14 have dropped in average price, while only 21 have risen by more than the current inflation rate.

Blaze rekindled

Ghost Rider seems to receive the lion's share of hype, gimmickry and hot issues, notably numbers 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15 and now 25. All have been incredibly successful and have made speculators a lot of money.

The Pop-Up #25 has been another success, but the issue that the fans now crave is #14, featuring the re-appearance of Johnny Blaze as a "No more Mr Nice Guy" Hellblazer.

Watch out for #14 catching up and even overtaking #15 (of the glow in the dark cover) as the fan reaction to the *Spirits of Vengeance* wave of launches exceeds that of all other summer titles.

Griffin 2

The Griffin, the DC mini-series which received a strong positive reaction from all over the country, has apparently proved equally popular in the States, despite the expensive price and format. Hence **The Griffin Volume 2** is currently in the works.

Let's hope DC plays it smart and follows Marvel's **Deathlok** approach by quickly reprinting the series in a cheaper format to attract all of those people who have heard how absolutely wonderful the series has been, but can't afford over £3 per issue.

Too late the warning

Movers and Shakers was again on the ball last issue warning you of the impending rush for **Amazing Spiderman** 361 and 362 featuring the new Venom-spawn character *Carnage*. But the frustrating thing is that we actually knew of the excitement only days after the deadline for the previous **Comics International**. Ah, if only the magazine was weekly, we could have saved you from having to pay as much as £7.50 for #361.

Usually, British fans have the good fortune of a second opportunity to pick up hot titles, when they are distributed nationally several months after printing. But thanks to the UK reprint **The Complete Spider-Man**, there is no UK newsstand distribution for any American Spidey titles. (Can it really make business sense to produce a hefty reprint edition of the four, rather than run on extras from the American titles?)

So it looks like perfect timing for speculators to sell sell sell their copies of 298 to 300 and buy buy buy 361 to 363. With artist Todd McFarlane having been out of the limelight for almost a year, his #298 work has been seen as low as £7.50 recently and people wait with baited breath to see if his new **Spawn** can make up Image's loss of face with the disappointing reaction to the company's first title, **Youngblood**.

UK Annual X-Over

A flattering high point in the latest (Official) **Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain** was a lengthy diatribe in response to a piece in this very column (even though the wrong ITMite was credited). While most readers may have been confused seeing it there after so many months, we're reluctant to print a rebuttal in case we have to wait another year for the next instalment.

Anyone disagreeing with some of the deliberately contentious opinions which slip through from time to time should have no problem getting equal space in this very magazine's letters column or *Comment* section.

It would certainly speed up any debate.

A touch of the blarney

Hellblazer is treading on dangerous ground with its present storyline. Writer Garth Ennis and artist William Simpson have been giving America (and us) a less-than-flattering version of The Royal Family. Prince Andrew has been depicted as a cocaine sniffing Jack the lad, and Charles, our future king, is being portrayed as a cannibalistic mass murderer possessed by the spirit of Jack the Ripper.

Both creators came over to London recently for the GEC Convention and Ennis, who passed out on the stairs to his hotel room after a night of over indulgence, was allegedly heard telling a young fan that he "intended to shock more people than Jamie (Delano) did, even if it means losing the loyal English readership". ●

The totally subjective musings of the ITMA team are personal opinions, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publication. But you already knew that, didn't you?

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LETTERS

COMICS INTERNATIONAL's letters column is your forum for opinion on publications, writers, artists, prices, market trends and anything else connected with the industry. As such, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher. Letters intended for publication will only be edited as a grammatical or space consideration. Write to us at:

Comics International Letters, PO Box 1937, London N3 2LP

Ever had a month where everything goes wrong? Thirty pages of keyline pasteup went missing, a cover's topline disappeared between film and print, a wrong ad appeared, and delivery was delayed. That was ***Comics International #19****.*

This month, we've grown again, to 96 pages, with Easter in the middle. Boredom? Bloody luxury!

Derek G. Skinn / Editor

James White, 6 Northbourne Rd Eastbourne, East Sussex

Over the last year and a half, I have seen different attempts by different publishers to produce an ongoing comic that appeals to everyone – especially adults. Examples include: **Revolver, Toxic, Meltdown, Blast** and **Crisis**. All have failed.

My question is this; will Marvel UK's new line last very long? I have heard that they might be scrapping selling separate versions in America. If this happens, Marvel UK will be on its own two feet again. But can **Overkill** achieve good sales figures?

I think it can, and I only hope it will last and be a success, but I admit to being a loving Marvel UK fan. What do you at **Comics International** think?

Personally, I hope it does succeed. The trade is fast becoming sceptical about new British comics and the industry needs a success outside of the 2000AD stable. It must be being aided greatly by the (not scrapped) American editions, which help spread the cost of new material.

***Overkill** launched quite modestly at 100,000, with the company wanting only 50,000 as a "settled" (continuing) sale. As that's about half of 2000AD, it is achievable.*

*My personal gripe (generally) is with titles which improve as they go along. A flawed first issue can create irreparable damage as readers, the trade and management lose faith early on. **Overkill** does have its share of teething problems, but so did 2000AD fifteen years ago.*

Let's hope that with the American bonus this title is given a chance to find its feet, weed out the weak aspects and develop whatever initial sales it receives. (DGS)

James Hawkins, PDO's Dept, HQRAFSC, RAF Brampton

While reading the April issue of **Comics International**, I noticed your comment re always welcoming criticism. While I don't have a criticism of your magazine itself, I do have a gripe concerning "The Hobby" in general.

I think I'm qualified to comment, having been a comics reader since I was ten (about 1962) up to the present day, with only a few short lapses.

I still have some of the comics I bought way back then; **Green Lantern** and **Justice League** in the tens and twenties. They may be worth a few bob, but I don't care (aarrggh - heresy!). I keep them for one reason , the pleasure of re-reading them.

The cause of my concern is The Collector. He is quite willing to pay some idiotic price for an early comic, not to read, but to keep in its probably unopened plastic bag in the hope it will increase in value. The only interest he has in the comic is speculative.

The net result is that I, and others like me, have been priced out of the market for back issues which I'd like to obtain, not purely for the completist sake of filling a gap, but to provide continuity when I reread the series.

I suppose I'm being unrealistic and I expect that you'll be inundated with letters pointing out that without The Collector and his ilk paying large sums for yesterday's ephemera there would be no second hand comic market today. Well, maybe.

As for the publishers, how many *readers* buy a comic because of trading cards, multiple covers or a purple plastic death gem (that *was* an April Fool's joke, wasn't it??) on the cover?

I may seem bitter, but with all the fans and collectors about, the comic reader is an endangered species.

When leading dealers talk about expensive high grade copies as "collectable grades", I would suggest they often mean "investment grades". But it's true that, like the Collector, the Speculator makes up a necessary part of the contemporary market for comics. So does that third (but unfathomable) category, the Completist. He (or she) won't read them, won't sell them, won't appreciate them, won't bag them. He just wants to cross missing issues off his wants list; reprints, fill-ins, spin-offs, the lot. He could be collecting stamps for the difference it makes.

But take consolation, James, in the fact that the Speculator rarely buys "low grade" copies, these appeal to people who want to enjoy their purchases. The solution is to find outlets who appreciate the difference and price to suit each market rather than believing all grades are valuable. (DGS)

Laurent Jacquand, Flat 9, 316 Oxford Rd, Manchester

Isn't the comics industry being taken just a little *too* seriously?

Heaven forbid! (DGS)

Les Chester, 25 Fairwater Ave, Welling, Kent

David Morris (*Letters*, **Comics International** 4/92) is mightily miffed that I dared to criticise Moebius in one of my reviews. David's emotive use of words like "nasty slur" and "pitiful accusations" almost put him beyond the pale, but I'd like to respond nonetheless.

First, David misunderstood the review itself. My comment "approach with caution" referred to **Cheval Noir 26**, not specifically to Moebius. I was trying to point out that the content mix of the comic had changed and that I could not recommend it as highly as I had in previous reviews.

Second, David does not understand the mechanics of reviewing. I give my capsule opinion on comics I spend good money on. I cannot, and will not, toe some "party line" on what is good and what is not. If we all did so there would be no point in having reviews. David obviously has a closed mind on the subject and should not be reading reviews in any case: he can buy things he has decided are good and leave the rest of us to make a judgement based on merit, not history or somebody else's recommendation.

Third, David doesn't understand the story of "The Emperor's New Clothes". The story is not about "the public" being deceived, but about people choosing to deceive *themselves*. They only stop deceiving themselves when a little boy points out the obvious. That was the whole point of my analogy, and I speak as someone who has been buying the artist's work for nearly twenty years.

I think the art is too cluttered and busy, all style and no content, and I won't in good conscience recommend people to buy it.

I would make the same analogy on the magazine **Love & Rockets**. Alan Moore says it is brilliant so all the bandwagon-jumpers go out and buy it and pretend to like it. But it sells fairly poorly because, in my opinion, the art is merely adequate and the stories are boring.

Finally, David obviously feels he is entitled to his opinion, but wants to jump on me for expressing mine. We would both naturally argue that ours is an *informed* opinion, but at least mine is my own and not based on that of others. I will continue to express it, and as forcefully as I judge necessary in each circumstance.

C. Robinson, 27 Galthorne Tce Potternewton, Leeds

Great to see you've got national distribution now. Here's a short note on who should play **Judge Dredd** in the forthcoming movie. Who else but Robert Patrick.

Who else, indeed. (DGS)

Peter Hogan, Silver Bullet Press PO Box 685, London SE24 9BP

Thanks for the report about the money raised by the Comic Relief Comic - a not inconsiderable amount despite the recession, as I think you'll agree.

However, while recounting the history of this project you managed to get a few details wrong, so i thought I should put the record straight.

The basic plot for the whole project was dreamt up by Neil Gaiman and *Blackadder* writer Richard Curtis. The plot was then fleshed out by Grant Morrison, who took it as far as page breakdowns that we could allocate to other writers. Which we did. These were the 24 writers credited in the comic,

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plus a couple of others who wished their contributions to remain anonymous.

Neil, Richard and I then reworked all the individual scripts into (what was hopefully) a coherent whole.

A complicated process? You bet. There were up to eighty people working on this at any given time and everybody - the writers, artists, letterers, executives and errand-runners - donated their time (at Christmas!) and their energy for nothing. And, thanks to the support of everybody who went out and bought a copy, all the hard work paid off.

In a year of general doom 'n' gloom on the British comics scene, this project - and all who sailed in her - managed to make the world a slightly brighter place.

And if that ain't excelsior, I won't know what is.

*For those who missed our earlier coverage, **The Comic Relief Comic** raised over £43,600. To our knowledge, results of Marvel and DC's earlier African relief comics, **Heroes Against Hunger** and **Heroes for Hope** have yet to be made public. (DGS)*

Adrian Couch, 1 Springfield Rd Smallford, St Albans

I have just purchased the new **Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain** and have noticed that the prices on many recent hot issues are much lower than shop/mart prices of even four or five months ago.

Shop/mart prices do however seem to closely resemble those in **Wizard** and **The Overstreet Updates**. Does this mean that dealers have been raising prices over the past year upon spotting rising prices in these American guides and not purely because of back issue demand in the UK?

Any free market is guided by the laws of supply and demand, but if the demand is in the US and the supply is in the UK, we may be forced into paying high prices for back issues that are still in very good supply in this country.

Is the solution to this problem (if it exists and I'm not just being pessimistic) a monthly UK Price Guide that could realistically represent the back issue demand in this country?

There has been considerable talk about a UK Price Guide Update from various sources, Adrian. But the main problem appears to be that the trade often buy scarce items direct from America, resulting in their charging US values.

Duncan McAlpine cannot possibly reflect sudden value swings in his 670+ page annual UK guide, his lead time is too great on such a large undertaking. Neither would I consider our market large enough to support a more easily produced magazine format Update edition, in which possibly only the "hot" 0.01% books would really shift in value.

We are aware the problem is something neither American titles nor Duncan's annual guide can address, hence our new chart feature, beginning this issue.

Naturally, some dealers were above the average and some below. But our long-term hope is that each will attempt to make their business more viable by moving towards that mid-point. While this risks minimising accidental under-pricing it could help towards a more settled (recent) back issue economy. (DGS)

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Silver Age: **Amazing Spider-Man** 1vfn £1950, 2vfn £595, 14nm £395; **Daredevil** 1fn £250; **Fantastic Four** 1vfn £1850; **Flash** 105vf £795, 110fn £125; **Green Lantern** 1fn+ £325; **Showcase** 4vfn £4500; 22vg £395. Hot, recent (all nm): **Ghost Rider** 1 £7.50; **Hulk** 340 £7.50; **Justice League International** 3 (test cover) £75; **Marvel Spotlight** 5vf £40; **New Mutants** 87 £35; **Punisher** (mini) 1 £35; **Punisher** 1 £12.50; **Punisher War Journal** 1 £10; **Spectacular Spider-Man** 1 £12.50; **Spider-Man** (silver-bagged) 1 £7.50; **Spider-Man** Platinum 1 £250; **Wolverine** 1 £10. Tel: 081 391 4187.

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First print comics for sale, all nm: **Akira** 1-12 £50; **Aliens** I 1-6 £30; **Aliens: Earth War** 1-4 £10; **Animal Man** 1-8 £40; **Appleseed** I 1-5 £25; **Batman** (Year One) 404-407 £15; **Batman** (Ten Nights of the Beast) 417-420 £20; **Green Arrow: The Longbow Hunters** 1-3 £10; **Green Arrow** (regular series) 1-4 £9; **Sandman** (current series) 1-8 £40; **V For Vendetta** 1-10 £20. Singles: **Aliens** II 1 £8; **Batman: The Killing Joke** £10; **Legends of the Dark Knight** 1 £3; **Cerebus** 51 £12, 52 £3, 53 £7, 54-56 £6; **Captain Britain** trade paperback limited edition (176/500) £25; **Destroyer Duck** 1 (1st Groo) £9; **Grey** 1 £5; **Groo** (Pacific) 1 £12, 3 £8; **Groo** (Epic) 1 £9, 3-6 £5, 7-9 £3, 10-12 £2; **Omaha** (Kitchen Sink) 1 £7; **Sandman** 14 £3.50; **Starslayer** 5 (2nd Groo) £5; **Terminator** (first Dark Horse series) 1 £4. Frank Miller Marvels: **Captain Marvel** 8 £4.50; **Hulk** Annual 11 £2; **John Carter** 18 £2.50; **Marvel Team-Up** 100 £4; **Marvel Two-In-One** 51 £2; **Amazing Spider-Man** Annual 15 (Punisher) £10. £1 p&p for all orders. Contact: J. Weeks, 29 Macaulay Rd. Clapham, London SW4 0QP

WANTED

Wanted: **Yummy Fur** 14-21; **Destroyer Duck** 1; **Roachmill** (Blackthorne) 2-6; **Groo the Wanderer** (Marvel) 1-4. If you have any of these, please write to: Steve, 143 Elderslie St. Flat 3/02, Glasgow G3 7AW.

Thriller Picture Library - am willing to pay 100% to 200% of Guide price for the issues I need. Also wanted: first **Overstreet Price Guide** - am willing to pay £75 to £150. Contact Ken on 081 771 8756.

A collector would dearly love to obtain Ted McKeever's **Eddy Current Collected** book and **Eddy Current** issues 1 2 3 4 7 12 and **Transit** 4. Details of prices, conditions, etc. to: Steven Thompson, 10 Windermere Rd. Kingston Vale, London SW15 3QP, tel: 081 541 1739.

Captain Britain fan requires the following British Marvel comics: **Marvel Super-Heroes** 379-388; **The Daredevils** 2 4 8 9 10. Please contact Richard Hoad, 117 Waters Rd. Catford, London SE6 1UH.

Wanted in at least fn+: **Action** 266 267; **Adventure** 269 271 282 283 300 302 499; **All-Star** 61; **Angel & Ape** 3 4 6; **Atom** 3 4 12 13 19-25 28-32 35; **Bat Lash** 2. Also any Fiction House/ Matt Baker. Contact: L. Bowkett, 14 Rainton Rd. London SE7 7QZ.

Wanted: Super-hero action figures, especially Marvel, all makes, all conditions considered - especially unboxed. Please send list of figures, conditions and asking prices to: Ivan Beattie, 21 Dorchester Gardens, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland BT36 8JJ.

Trading cards wanted: X-Men Jim Lee Comic Images Trading Cards: 2 11 14 17 21 45 61 72 90. Will pay £4 for all of these ten (vfn-m) or can arrange swap. Contact: Alan Deuchars, 84 Carse Knowe, Linlithgow, West Lothian, Scotland, tel: 0506 843286.

Wanted: Marvel UK weekly issues of: **Transformers** 1-26 28 29 31 32 36 38 39 238 240 248-288 291 199-332; **Secret Wars** I & II 1-29 32 33 36 40 57 64 65 67; **Spider-Man & Zoids** 17. Contact: David Whittaker, 205 Long Lane, Aughton, Nr. Ormskirk, Lancs. L39 5BU.

Sandman fan keen to buy Sandman watch/poster/ T-shirt, as advertised in **Sandman**. Write to: A. Thompson, 40 Cemetery Rd., Normanton, W. Yorks WF6 2EW.

Wanted, by private collector, British original artwork from the '50s to '70s. Contact: Jerr, 081 291 0218.

Wanted: *Lost in Space* model kits, lisfan, files, fanzines, comics, books, cards, toys, etc. I Will consider anything if reasonably priced. Write to: Gary McRae, 50 Vaila St. Cadder, Glasgow G23 5BD.

Wanted: **Batman** 208 213 and the following in vfn condition, interior pages still white: **Brave and Bold** 115; **Action** 406 407 415; **Superman** 252 278 284. Details of prices, conditions, etc. to: Michael Connolly, Tirgarve, Allistragh, Armagh, Co. Armagh, N. Ireland BT61 8EZ. No phone calls, please, contact by mail only.

Wanted: out-of-print horror novel, in paperback: **Worm** by Simon Ian Childer. Will pay £££s. Please contact: Brian Barker, 5 Allen Street, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH3 3JG, tel: 091 388 3953.

Wanted: **2000AD** Sci-Fi Special 1980 and **Eagle** annuals for 1979 and 1980. Please write to: Brian Rendell, 10 Brechley Close, Hayesford Park, Bromley, Kent BR2 9DR.

Wanted in vfn+ condition: **Fantastic Four** 66 67; **Hulk** 158; **Thor** 166; **Marvel Two-In-One** Annual 2; **Warlock** 1-8 10-14 16; **Iron Man** 55; **Marvel Premier** 1 2; **Logan's Run** 6; **Captain Marvel** 26. Will pay good prices and exchange **New Mutants** 87 (1st print) for **Iron Man** 55 and **Logan's Run** 6. Contact: Adam, 0602 762710 4-10pm, Monday - Saturday.

Wanted: **Spider-man** 1960s cartoon series. Videos of any episodes desperately needed to assist preparation of Spider-Man book. Also original **Spider-Man** comic artwork - please contact, with details and prices: David Currie, 15 Ascension House, Moorfields Close, Bath, Avon BA2 2MX, tel: 0255 335336.

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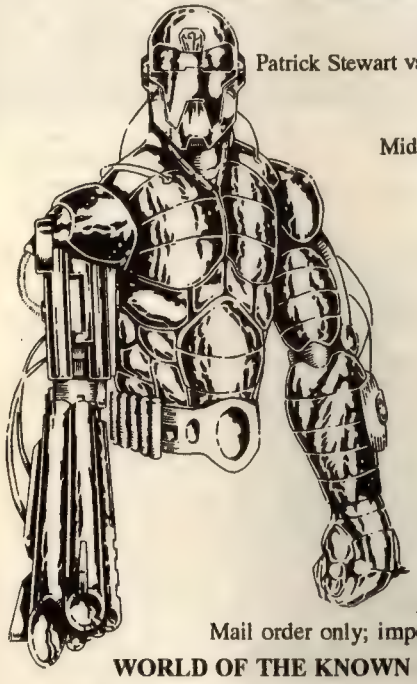

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I have **Aliens Earth War** 1, **Aliens vs Predator** 1, **Dark Horse Presents** 34 35 36 36A (painted cover) all nm. I need **Batman** Year Two part 2, Year One part 1 in nm for all the above. Also wanted A+BC Batman gum cards and wrappers. I have Batman cereal box with Batman money box attached modelled on Keaton, USA issue only. Offers? Contact: Neville Peacock, 166 First Lane, Hessle, North Humberside HU13 9EU.

High grade, near complete runs of **Aliens**, **Predator**, **Aliens vs Predator**, **Terminator**, **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** and hot recent Marvels (over £400 worth) to trade (plus cash, if necessary) for key Marvel books, eg. **Hulk** 180 181, **X-Men** 94, **Iron Man** 55, etc. For further details, please contact Paul on 061 736 3310, or write to: 49 Russell Rd. Salford M6 6WQ.

Will exchange: **Batman** 433-435 (many deaths Batman saga); **Detective** 600 627; **Brave and Bold** 200; **Batman** 423 (McFarlane cover); **Superman** 1; **Killing Joke** (4th); **Armageddon: 2001** 1. For: **X-Men** 270-275; **X-Factor** 60 61; **Silver Surfer** 48 49. Also **Countdown** (Thunderbirds) 1 2 4-7. Offers considered. Contact James: 0902 753886.

I wish to exchange **Predator** 1 (1st), **Aliens vs Predator** 1 (1st) and **Dark Horse Presents** 35 (Predator), all nm for **Aliens** (1st series) 1 (1st print) and 3 (1st print), must be nm. Please contact Mike Foxx, Flat 1, 19 London Rd. Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2EZ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artists seeks comics illustration work. Samples available. Nick: 081 340 6237.

Artist who can draw super-heroes and soccer stuff needed for a new fanzine, to be launched summer '92!! (NB: send samples on A4). Write to: Lee Davis, 35 Manly Dixon Drive, Enfield, Middx. EN3 6BQ.

Reliable penciliers required to collaborate on speculative submissions to US independent publishers. Send photocopies samples and SAE for details to: Andymation, Flat 4, 89 Connaught Rd. Roath, Cardiff, CF2 3PX.

Wales - now has its own comics and gaming fanzine, **Jumpstarting the Dog**. 36 A5 pages of up-to-the-minute news, reviews, scandal and gossip. Issues 1, 2 and 3 available now, only £1 (+50p p&p) each. Cheques or Pos to: S. Jones, 9 Wentworth Crescent, Mayals, Swansea, W. Glam. SA3 5HT.

Avoid the post-Election blues! £1 gets you the latest issue of merry **Mondo Comics!!** The funkiest fanzine this side of the M25! Further details: Lee Davis, 35 Manly Dixon Drive, Enfield, Middx. EN3 6BQ. **Mondo** comes in Nicam digital stereo!

Phillips International Auctioneers are to hold an Auction of British and American comics and associated material on Saturday, September 5th 1992. Entries are now being accepted at all Phillips branches, alternatively contact Gill Atkins on 0225 310609 or fax: 0225 446675 with list of material offered.

Writer seeks dark, gritty style artist for non-profit making b&w venture. Must be in Leeds or Wakefield area as large amount of consultation will be needed. Nothing may happen, but I want to try. Contact: Ian Leach, 23 Queens Rd, Airedale, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF10 3EQ.

Read this now - because if you don't, you'll miss out on the first hot free issue of **What's Next** comic fanzine. Featuring strips and reviews. We are waiting for your contribution and orders. Write to us at What's Next Comics, 44 Martin Ave. Hampton, Eversham, Worcs. WR11 6NP.

"Dear Comics International, thank you for running my last ad a couple of months ago. The response was good, and I'm now working on strips with several writers who responded." A. Nixon, Andymation.

Long-suffering 18-year-old comics nut surrounded by friends who wouldn't know a comic book if it kicked them up the backside - wishes to establish communication with similar people in similar situations. Wicked sense of humour essential. Contact: Ian Mileham, 58 Basin Rd. Heybridge Basin, Essex CM9 7RJ.

"Dear Dez and Co, thanks for running our recent ad in the Announcements section of Comics International - the response is still flooding in - it's incredible! We owe the future of Mondo Comix to you guys at Comics International!" - Lee Davis.

Comics International 16 - Steve Dillon's advertisement asking for **X-Men** 271 and **New Mutants** 95 - Sam in Islington, London - I was going to reply, affirming your offer - but lost your address! If you're still interested, please contact me at: 28 Thorne Rd. Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1AT, as soon as possible.

Writer seeks collaboration with polished, mainstream artist for bizzaro fantasy stories. Send samples to: Darryl Cunningham, 63 Whin Knoll Ave. Blackhill, Keighley, West Yorks. BD21 2HY.

Comics writer seeks graphic artist for joint submission to American agency. Two titles under consideration: one sci-fi super-hero, the other bizarre humour which would call for a Steve Parkhouse style. Good chance of publication by reputable mainstream publisher. Phone: 081 441 4884.

Are comics a male-only thang? Heck, no! **Vixen** is coming, but it needs your help! Female writers and artists write to: Donna Wreford, 140 Amersham Ave., Edmonton, London N18 1DY. ●

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eVENTS GUIDE

An at-a-glance guide, this listing gives the dates and locations of all forthcoming events advertised this issue. A free service for advertisers, the bracketed number after each entry denotes the page where full details appear.

MAY

10/5 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 64)
16/5 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Chambers Concert Hall, School Lane, Liverpool (p 40)
16/5 **LONDON:** Judge Dredd Megazine signing at Forbidden Planet, 71 New Oxford Street, London WC1 (p 32)
17/5 **PETERBOROUGH:** Fantasy Fair with guests including David Lloyd, The Cresset Exhibition Centre, Bretton (p 35)
23/5 **KENT:** Punisher creators signing at: The Edge of Forever, 82B Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent (p 13)
23/5 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street (p 67)
30/5 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Library Exhibition Hall, Paradise Street (p 67)

JUNE

3/6 **NEWCASTLE:** Comics Auction, Anderson & Garland, Marlborough House, Marlborough Crescent, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (p 29)
6/6 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 67)
7/6 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 65)
20/6 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 89)
27/6 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Stakis Victoria Hotel, Milton Street (p 67)
28/6 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool (p 41)
28/6 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace - Platinum Edition, Royal Horticultural Society Old Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster (p 64)

JULY

4/7 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Polytechnic, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 67)
11/7 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 67)
12/7 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 64)
18/7 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street (p 67)
25/7 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 67)

AUGUST

1-2/8 **LONDON:** Comic Book Convention (2 days with guests), Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London (p 11)
2/8 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool (p 41)
8/8 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 67)
16/8 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 65)
29/8 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Stakis Victoria Hotel, Milton Street (p 67)

SEPTEMBER

5/9 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 89)
6/9 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 64)
12/9 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street (p 67)
19/9 **LONDON:** 2-day UK Comic Art Convention (19 & 20/9; with guests), Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 47)
19/9 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Polytechnic, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 67)
26/9 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 67)

OCTOBER

17/10 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 89)
18/10 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 65)

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IRON MAN 245-247, 252-258,260 50p.
IRON MAN ANNUAL 8 X-Factor £1.50. 10,11 £1.
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